

# 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. 99 February 2017



## Dunera Reunion Melbourne 2016

Dunera Boys – Clockwise from bottom left:  
Bernard Rothschild, Henry Hirsch, Harry Unger, and Albert Meyer,  
with The Honourable Linda Dessau AM, the Governor of Victoria.

**Foundation Editor:**

The late Henry Lippmann OAM

**Editorial responsibility:**

The Committee of the Dunera Association

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– Friends of the Dunera Boys

Letters and articles for publication are welcome.

**Email:** [duneraboys@gmail.com](mailto:duneraboys@gmail.com)

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*Many thanks to all the contributors.*

**SEEKING INFORMATION**

My name is Jennie Koster and I reside in Newcastle. Both my parents were refugees from Germany, however, the reason I am writing to you is that my uncle, Albert Valentin was interned at Hay and whilst there he had the attached sketch done by, I believe, an Hungarian artist.

My uncle kept this sketch and once released took it with him to England, where he married my father’s sister. This sketch was in turn bequeathed to me upon my aunt’s passing.

I do not know his name but at the bottom of the sketch are the initials “WAG” Hay 1940.

Is it at all possible to find out who the artist was? I appreciate that you are extremely busy but I would very much like to know about this very talented man. I thank you in anticipation.

**Jennie Koster** – 0411 420 570



Rebecca Silk  
President  
Dunera Association

**From the President**

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Dunera News for 2017. It contains reports of our highly successful reunion lunch last November, a wonderful piece on the colloquium for historian Ken Inglis called *Dunera: A Seventy Year History*, and an accidental love story about Dunera Boy Uwe Radok. Once again I am grateful to all who contributed to this edition.

During the Australian summer break, I travelled to Europe and enjoyed a winter visit. I had the privilege of visiting Vienna, my father’s home before the war and his escape. It was exciting to walk in his footsteps, to see the places he would have frequented – the university, the museums, the parks and the theatres, and to get a sense of this most elegant city. But it was also saddening to see relatively few remnants of Jewish life and culture that remain in Vienna.

Please take note of the dates of our reunions this year and plan around them. We will be at Tatura on 7 May, in Hay for the reunion weekend 2–3 September, in Sydney on 6 September, and in Melbourne for our annual reunion lunch on 14 November.



Our Tatura Memorial Sculpture Appeal is in full swing. Funds will support a memorial sculpture to honour those internees who drowned when the Arandora Star sank, as well as other internees who perished on their return journey to England. We are most grateful to the Tatura Wartime Camps Museum for providing a home for the memorial. This is our first fundraising appeal and I hope you will support it. Donation details are on page 9.

As usual you can keep in touch or update your details by contacting [duneraboys@gmail.com](mailto:duneraboys@gmail.com) or join our Facebook group – Friends of the Dunera Boys.

I wish you happy reading!

## Melbourne Reunion Lunch – November 2016

Over 90 people attended the annual reunion lunch held at Kimberley Gardens Melbourne on 8 November, 2016. The main guest speaker was The Honorable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria. The Governor spoke about the impressive nature of the resilience shown by the Dunera internees in overcoming their adversities, as well as the achievements of their later lives.

She spoke in detail about two Dunera men whose lives had intersected hers. The first was Fritz Weidenbaum, later Fred Carter, who became a butler at Government House, Melbourne in the 1950s. In those days the staff lived at the House. The story is told that Fred, whenever the Governor was away, would delight in showing friends around and act as if he had the run of the place.

The Governor then spoke of Justice Steven Strauss who studied for his matriculation whilst interned at Tatura. He was successful in winning a Scholarship to Melbourne University to study law. In 1965 Steven Strauss was the first lawyer, born outside of the Commonwealth, to become a Queen's Counsel of the Victorian Supreme Court. He served as a Family Court judge from 1976 to 1994, and was a permanent member of the Appeals Division from 1985.

Steven Strauss was one of the intellectual leaders of the Supreme Court and was noted for his great humanity and wisdom. The Governor spoke of Justice Strauss as having a finely honed legal mind and being a most eminent mentor for her and other younger judges.

Musical researcher Dr Joseph Toltz, from the University of Sydney began by reminding the audience of the recent visit to Australia by Albrecht Dümpling to launch the book *The Vanished Musicians*, about refugee musicians in Australia. Joseph went on to speak about his own project called *Performing the Jewish Archive*.

This project, funded by the British Arts & Humanities Research Council and based at the University of Leeds, brings together twelve researchers from around the world to look at musical, theatrical and literary works, created by Jewish artists, that have been deposited in various archives for safekeeping or left unknown to the public.

The works are rediscovered, reviewed or edited if necessary, and then performed. The researchers discuss how the works or creative artefacts provide unique perspectives on larger narratives of exile, persecution and the articulation of culture and identity. (For more information, please go to [ptja.leeds.ac.uk](http://ptja.leeds.ac.uk))



Three of the five performances of the *Out of the Shadows* festival took place in 2016: Madison, Wisconsin (USA), Leeds/York (UK) and Prague, Pilsen and Terezin (Czech Republic). The fourth festival will take place in Sydney (Australia), from 5–13 August, 2017, and the final in September in Capetown (South Africa).

For the Sydney Festival, Joseph is preparing music composed by former internees Werner Baer, Walter Wurzbürger, Boas Bischofswerder and Felix Werder. Bischofswerder's only surviving composition was written onboard the Dunera. The other composers wrote music in the Hay and Tatura camps, and had successful post-war careers in Australia and the UK. Joseph said it is strange that this music, and that composed by internees in the 20 years after internment, seems to have been largely forgotten. He hopes that his project will bring the music back to the public consciousness.

## Dunera Reunion Lunch – November 2016

Joseph invited Dunera and Singapore group internees and their families and friends to the concerts in Sydney. Full details of the program will be in the next newsletter.

### MESSAGE FROM DR JOSEPH TOLTZ

Dear Members of the Association

It was a great privilege to speak at the Dunera Reunion Lunch in November alongside Her Excellency the Governor, and I would like to thank Rebecca Silk and the organisers for the kind invitation.

The music that I will present in the *Out of the Shadows* festival includes some of the dance scores that Werner Baer wrote for the Bodenwieser Ballet, and choir music by Baer, as well as chamber music compositions by Felix Werder and his father Boas Bischofswerder, and the string trio that Walter Wurzburger wrote during his internment in Tatura. These will be presented in a series of concerts across the week of the festival, alongside other material by my co-researchers. You will hear choral music from Poland and Finland, cabarets written in Theresienstadt and Helsinki, and we hope to present Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's *Seven Deadly Sins*. We will have two public lectures by distinguished keynote speakers: Professor Brigid Cohen (NYU) and Professor Anna Shternshis (UToronto). Some of Australia's best musicians will be performing the works, including the Goldner String Quartet, the Sydney Symphony Fellows, the VOX choir from Sydney Philharmonia and other fine musicians from the Sydney Conservatorium. A special feature of the program will be the inclusion of new works, composed by the Conservatorium's best new talent. These will be inspired by stories of Jewish diaspora in the 20th century.

As part of the festival, we wish to perform excerpts from *Sergeant Snow White* for a special cabaret evening. The original revue was written by the Eighth Australian Employment Company (former internees) in Melbourne in April 1943. However, this won't be able to be staged until we find heirs to the estate of the late Doc Kurt Sternberg, who passed away in 1971 in Sydney. If any members of the Association know the whereabouts of his family, I would be really grateful to hear from them. My email address is [joseph.toltz@sydney.edu.au](mailto:joseph.toltz@sydney.edu.au)

Finally, although we receive substantial support from the Arts & Humanities Research Council, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and other organisations, this does not cover the costs of performers and promotion. If you would like to support the Festival, donations are tax deductible. Please contact me via email for more details – [joseph.toltz@sydney.edu.au](mailto:joseph.toltz@sydney.edu.au)





## Dessau lauds Dunera boys

By Peter Kohn – *Australian Jewish News*



Photo: Peter Haskin /AJN

Addressing this year’s Dunera Association lunch, Victorian Governor Linda Dessau paid tribute to four of the former internees at Hay and Tatura, who were detained there during World War 2 after their arrival in Australia as German enemy aliens on the British vessel HMT Dunera.

In the presence of Melbourne ‘Dunera boys’ Albert Meyer, Henry Hirsch, Harry Unger and Bernard Rothschild, and their families, Dessau spoke to her audience at the Kimberley reception centre about a “disproportionately large group of achievers” who arrived aboard the Dunera in 1940.

“Was there something in the water ... was there something in Hay or Tatura that gave these men something that we can’t quite grasp? Was it because of the origins of the particular group of people who were put on those ships? Was it the resilience that was bred into them by the hardships they’d suffered ... was it the strength that came from the close camaraderie ... perhaps it was a combination,” she pondered, giving athletics coach Franz Stampfl and composer Felix Werder as examples.

Dessau spoke briefly about two Dunera boys – Fritz Weidenbaum, who worked as a butler in Government House, Melbourne, well before her tenure, and Steven Strauss, who was a Family Court judge she had known.

“In Victoria, we are blessed to live in a diverse, multicultural society and it’s something on which we pride ourselves. We’re famously multicultural, we have people from more than 200 different countries, 260 different language groups, and 135 different faiths,” she stated.

Dessau said Victorians needed to remain on guard against threats to social cohesion of the kind “that saw the Dunera boys treated so poorly” aboard the vessel.

“No-one would be more aware than the people in this room of the need for constant vigilance, constant focus and constant individual as well as collective responsibility and commitment, harmony and a sense of belonging for us all,” she reflected.

Dunera Association vice-president Peter Felder, son of internee Henry Felder, told The AJN only 10–20 ex-Dunera internees are alive in Australia today and in the next few years the association will need to make do without this dwindling cohort of eyewitnesses to one of the more bizarre subplots of World War 2.

Story reproduced with kind permission from *Australian Jewish News*

## An accidental love story

Anita Holper's parents and brother left Russia in 1918 and moved to Italy where Anita was born in 1925. The family lived there until war broke out and they decided, that being Jewish, it was time to leave. Anita couldn't go to school anymore and her subsequent education was sporadic. The family ended up in Singapore and then left there aboard the Queen Mary, alongside the Duldig family, bound for Australia.

Uwe Radok and two of his brothers were working in England. They were rounded up to be deported firstly on the Arandora Star, which was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland enroute to Canada, then rescued and put onto the Dunera.

Fate saw Anita and Uwe arrive in Australia in September 1940 and end up in the same internment camp (Tatura Camp 3).

In the camp, the tall, slim Russian/Italian girl caught Uwe's eye but she wasn't that easily convinced. They would talk to each other through the fence but one wonders what a well educated German man and this girl, nine years his junior, had in common? Anita spoke little English at that stage, but Uwe was probably already the linguist he was going to become. Anita's mother was university educated, so maybe she taught Anita a few useful phrases too. They also caught the eye of Karl Duldig who captured their conversations in a drawing.

After the war, they lost contact with each other and except for a chance meeting on a tram, that might have been the end of the story. They both hopped onto the same tram headed for St Kilda, both going to inspect a room in a city with scarce accommodation. They said hello, got off at the same stop and continued to walk together. As it turned out, their destination was the same room and both were so embarrassed that they, having arrived together, were presumed to be a couple; neither got the room. That chance meeting was to kickstart their relationship with Uwe wooing Anita at the children's home where she worked until she relented and accepted his marriage proposal.

They were married in 1944 and lived together in Australia and America, and then Australia again, until Uwe died in 2009, with Anita passing away in 2014.

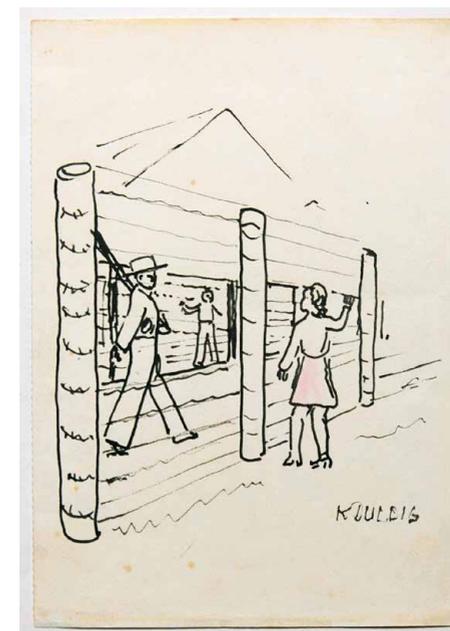
—**Jacquie Houlden** (daughter of Uwe and Anita) 2016

Duldig Studio – *Art Behind the Wire*

For further information please contact the Duldig Studio  
– enquiries@duldig.org.au or visit duldig.org.au



Jacquie Houlden at the Duldig Studio,  
November 2016.  
Photo: Duldig Studio



**Karl Duldig**  
*Communication through barbed wire*, c.1941  
Copyright © Duldig Studio

### FOOTNOTE:

Bern Brent first told Eva de Jong-Duldig the story of Dunera internee Uwe Radok who married a Singapore internee Anita Holper. Bern also put Eva in touch with their daughter, Jacquie Houlden and an email correspondence followed. Eva and Jacquie met for the first time at the Dunera luncheon last November. After lunch, Jacquie visited the Duldig Studio to see the exhibition *Art Behind the Wire* and especially the drawing *Communication through barbed wire* in which Karl Duldig had captured the moment when her parents first saw each other in Camp 3 in Tatura.



## Ken Inglis and the *Dunera*: A Seventy-Year History

By Seumas Sparks

In 1947, Ken Inglis left home for the University of Melbourne. He had earned himself two scholarships: one subsidised a Bachelor of Arts, and the other covered meals and board at Queen's College. For a callow seventeen-year-old from Preston in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, Queen's was a thrilling new world. Under Dr Raynor Johnson, Master of the college since 1934, Queen's had become the most diverse and international of the University's colleges, a home to staff and students from beyond Melbourne and Methodism. At Northcote High and Melbourne High Ken had been aware of students from overseas, but most of these reffos, to use the idiom of the day, lived and studied beyond his Anglo-Celtic social circle. Not so at Queen's, which in the 1940s was home to three men from the *Dunera*: Leonhard Adam, George Duerrheim and George Nadel. European, and exotic for it, they represented a new and different kind of person to Ken.

Dr Leonhard Adam had arrived at Queen's in 1942, his release from internment arranged by charitable organisations sympathetic to the plight of the *Dunera* internees. Fifty years old, he had served the Kaiser in the First World War, and had enjoyed a successful career as a legal scholar and judge in the Weimar republic. In the years before the Second World War he left the law for anthropology, building a reputation as an expert on primitive art, and it was in this capacity that he was employed at the university. Ken remembers him sitting erect and proud at high table, a dignified figure.

Duerrheim also sat at high table, and next to the Master and other staff in the annual College photo, though he was a student. In these photos he looks forlorn and older than his age. Duerrheim had come to the University and Queen's in 1943, age 35. His place at Queen's was tribute to Raynor Johnson's worldly interests and religious pluralism. Duerrheim was a Roman Catholic, classified Jewish by the Nazis, living in a Methodist institution. He hoped to finish a medical degree, very nearly completed in his native Vienna. The German annexation of Austria in 1938 and the adoption of Nazi race laws had led to his being disbarred from sitting his final exams. British-minded medical authorities in Victoria, the state with the most rigid rules on doctors' qualifications, took little heed of these studies and his extensive practical experience and insisted he join the Melbourne medicine course at second year level: five more years of study to achieve what the *Anschluss* had denied him. Duerrheim died young, in 1965. He practised medicine for not much longer than he studied it.

Duerrheim and Adam were benign figures. George Nadel, born in Vienna in 1923, was dark and mysterious. Jim Morrissey, a Queen's resident, called him 'Old Black Daddy', a nod to his shadowy ways. John Mulvaney, who knew Nadel as a fellow



Queen's College, The University of Melbourne. Ken Inglis is in the front row, second from right. George Nadel is in the back row, second from left.

Photo: Ken Inglis

History student, thought him a 'con man of some proportion'. Ken, choosing his words carefully, says Nadel was 'wily', 'ruthless', 'ludicrous' and intellectually brilliant. Nadel achieved first class honours in History in 1948, a golden year in a golden age for Melbourne History, then decamped to Harvard. He founded the scholarly journal *History and Theory*, published to this day. Isaiah Berlin and Raymond Aron were among its first contributors. Mulvaney has it that Nadel's other great achievement was marrying a Rockefeller, but of this we're yet to find corroborating evidence.

In 1947 Ken knew of Adam, Duerrheim and Nadel as Europeans and reffos, but not of their connection to the *Dunera*. As yet the name of that ship meant little to him. In 1948, the word *Dunera* came to mean more, when Ken took Franz Philipp's course on Renaissance and Reformation history.

Philipp was an art historian from Vienna who, after internment and service in the Australian army, found a home in Max Crawford's History Department. Philipp was quiet and gentle, an uncertain lecturer whose words, mumbled and spoken with a heavy accent, were hard to follow. Another characteristic was his eye for ability. He spotted Arthur Boyd – Philipp wrote the earliest scholarly review of the young

artist's work – and he spotted Ken. After reading his 'mature and scholarly' essay on Machiavelli, Philipp suggested that Ken consider an academic career. For the young man from Preston with a love of words and writing, it was an exhilarating prospect; one, Ken notes, he 'hadn't dared to entertain'. The man from the *Dunera* set Ken on his way to a career as a scholar.

Philipp was one of several scholars from the *Dunera* who found employment at the University of Melbourne. Some, Ken encountered in the course of academic life or at parties, where on occasion they talked of the past and their journey from Europe. Ken listened, snatching words about *Dunera* here and there and learning more of their stories. Were these men typical of the *Dunera* internees, he wondered? The few he knew were all intellectuals. In politics were Hugo Wolfsohn, tutor, and the precocious Henry Mayer, student. Both were dynamic contributors to university life, and to Ken daunting and formidable figures. 'Mayer and Wolfsohn were a fearsome pair', he writes, 'prowling the Arts building and the Union like bears hungry to feast on our dogmas and confusions, especially those deriving from Karl Marx.' Mayer especially was everywhere; a vocal member of undergraduate societies, author of firebrand articles for campus publications, and in 1949 editor, with Max Corden, of *Melbourne University Magazine*.

Kurt Baier and Peter Herbst were in philosophy. Ken took a unit of philosophy, for which Herbst was his tutor, and other lectures he attended out of interest. Baier's lectures were worth it. 'High calibre' and 'intellectually penetrating', John Mulvaney called them. Gerd Buchdahl was another *Dunera* reffo in Ken's circle. Ken heard him give a seminar paper to the History Department on the evolution of scientific thought from Kepler and Galileo to Newton, and what it was that Newton knew that the others didn't. 'It was a superb piece of intellectual history', Ken recalls. 'Gerd had everything as a lecturer.' Buchdahl went on to found the study of History and Philosophy of Science at Melbourne and at Cambridge.

Ken has told of the personal and academic satisfaction he derived from his time at the University of Melbourne. The scholars from the *Dunera* didn't make these years, but they added to them, giving Ken glimpses of worlds he hardly knew. Many had a sophistication he admired.

*Dunera* boys and their stories followed Ken beyond the University of Melbourne. In Oxford in 1954, Ken and his wife Judy welcomed Gerd and Nancy Buchdahl and Peter and Valerie Herbst to their flat. Judy had her own connections, having studied philosophy at Melbourne in which she achieved first class honours in 1950. She was close to Herbst in particular, who had been teacher and colleague. Arguing a point about the *Dunera*, Buchdahl and Herbst, both of whom spoke perfect English and

favoured high diction, resorted to name calling. 'Nonsense, you stinkpot.' 'Don't talk to me like that, you shitbag.' More than sixty years later, Ken tells this story with relish. He remembers the scene as vividly as any from his time at Oxford. Two German refugees and Anglophiles, once interned in the Australian bush, mixing profanities and scholarly wisdom in his flat in Oxford. It's a good story.

Herbst became Professor of Philosophy at the Australian National University, where Ken also taught, and their friendship continued. Other *Dunera* friends in Canberra included Fred Gruen, an economist and neighbour of Ken's in the Coombs building at ANU, and Klaus Loewald, a historian who lived near Ken and Amirah in O'Connor. Loewald's story is remarkable. He was born into a Jewish family in Berlin in 1920. He escaped the Kristallnacht pogrom in 1938 by staying on the move, resting at night on trains rather than at home. In London he worked in a factory job before his arrest and deportation to Australia. Released from internment in 1942, he served in the 8th Employment Company of the Australian army alongside other former *Dunera* internees. He returned to London in 1945, emigrated to the United States the next year, and there took American citizenship and built an academic career. In 1962 he left Berkeley for Saigon to teach American politics and history at the university and to serve as United States cultural attache. He resigned from the US diplomatic service in 1970 in protest against the Vietnam War and Nixon's presidency, moved to Australia with his wife, and joined the History department of the University of New England. He died in 2004, without having travelled to Hay with Ken, a trip Loewald had suggested they make.

Through these years Ken tried to interest his postgraduate students in writing about the *Dunera*, but never had any takers. Deep into retirement, he decided to tackle the job himself. He'd begun to sketch out a memoir when he reached the late 1940s and was distracted by Franz Philipp. Why write about his boring old self when he could write about *Dunera*, Ken thought. Classic Ken. He had no German, but he knew *Dunera* boys, and that scholars and filmmakers hadn't told all their story. And so he set sail on the bad ship *Dunera*, as he sometimes calls it. While I'm glad he did, I wish we could have had both histories: Ken on the *Dunera* and Ken on Ken.



Hans Marcus and Klaus Loewald.  
1990. Photo: Rebecca Silk

Thus far much of what I've said isn't new: Ken has written about his encounters with *Dunera* boys, and told these stories better than I can. In the time I have left, I give my perspective on what Ken brings to the study of *Dunera*, and of his methods. I think this is worthwhile. I have the privilege, and it is a privilege, of watching Ken at work, and I reckon I'm one of relatively few to have enjoyed so close a view: Amirah obviously, Jan Brazier on *Sacred Places*, Jay over the last few years on this project, and probably not too many others.

*Dunera* scholarship is surprisingly thin for such a rich subject. In 1963, Walter Koenig, a Jesuit priest and one of the oldest men deported on the *Dunera*, wrote an article for the Catholic journal *Twentieth Century* about his internment. Two years later Sol Encel wrote about the *Dunera* internees for *Nation*, and in 1979 and 1983 Ben Zion Patkin and Cyril Pearl published histories. Both books have their strengths,

### Dunera scholarship is surprisingly thin for such a rich subject.

memoirs, many self-published and some wonderful. Elisabeth Lebensaft and her colleagues have written excellent studies in German of *Dunera* boys. Leaving aside the articles Ken has published, that's about the sum of dedicated *Dunera* scholarship.

Ken takes a broad view of the *Dunera* story, broader than Patkin and Pearl. He is interested in the lives of the *Dunera* boys before and after internment. What they did with their freedom is important: think of Klaus Loewald, for example. His dying wish, in 2004, was for a change of government in Australia and in the United States. How could such a telling statement be left out of any account of his life? The trouble with saying more is you need to know more. Ken's *Dunera* archive, which includes archival documents, newspaper clippings, interview transcripts, handwritten notes and reams of email correspondence with *Dunera* boys and their families, fills six large filing cabinets. The first folders in the archive are arranged chronologically and then, if further sub-division is needed, thematically. The *Dunera* internees were held in camps at Hay and Orange in New South Wales, and Tatura in Victoria. Ken has files for these places, then files on 'Camps general', Camps – artists and sculptors', 'Camp currency', 'Camp culture', 'Camp poems and songs', 'Camp publications', 'Camps – religion', 'Camps – sex', 'Camps – university exams', and so on. Another file has information on the use of the term '*Dunera* boys'. Ever alert to language, Ken asks how and when it arose. Best thinking at the moment is that the term

emerged in the early 1980s when the film director Ben Lewin was planning his television mini-series about the *Dunera*.

The second part of the archive is devoted to files on individual *Dunera* boys. I guess there are about 250 of these files. Some have a few sheets of paper, others half a tree – 2000 pages or more. When I learn something about a *Dunera* boy, I check the archive to see if Ken has the information already. Usually I find he does, and that he's made notes on what this *Dunera* boy had in common with others, with whom he was close, the ways in which his story matters, and where mention of him might fit in the book. Ken's always one or two steps ahead, but he never makes me feel that I'm one or two steps behind. That's one reason why he's a great scholar, and it has nothing to do with reading or writing. He takes people with him.

What then to do with this information? How to distil it into a logical and coherent piece of writing that tells us something we didn't know. I think because Ken's work is easy to read, it can lead to the assumption that the words on the page came to him easily. Not always. Ken proceeds by asking questions, questions that haven't been asked or answered. Here are three central to his work on *Dunera*:

*'What was it about the Dunera boys, and what about Australia, that made so many of them such high achievers in and beyond the academy, the arts and business?'*  
*'In what ways has the story been mythologised by Dunera boys and others who make it a celebration of worldly success and too readily take the outstanding to be the norm?'*

*'Why do some Dunera boys reject comparisons between themselves and asylum seekers, between the Dunera and the Tampa?'*

Ken is wary of repeating received wisdom. When he was at the University of Melbourne in the 1940s, he wondered if the *Dunera* boys he knew represented the whole. No, as he discovered. On the *Dunera* were men of different abilities, culture and religion, a fact that runs contrary to popular perception, such as it exists. Brilliant intellectuals were the exception rather than the norm, and a significant minority of the 2000 *Dunera* boys were not Jewish. Ken has a file on baddies, thugs and scoundrels among the *Dunera* boys.

The *Dunera* history we are writing will include biographical sketches of *Dunera* boys. Some of these Ken has completed. If he's in contact with the man or his family, Ken sends what he has written for comment, and waits anxiously for reply. Such is his respect for the rules and practice of history, and for people, the focus of his work. He takes no liberties, even after a lifetime of good reviews and prizes for writing. And, for the record, invariably the replies are positive. Last year Ken published an article on Henry Mayer. Mayer enjoyed a long academic career at the University

of Sydney, where he moved after finishing his studies at Melbourne. He remained a formidable figure, the sort of multifarious and elusive character that biographers find hard to capture. Elaine Mayer, his widow, thought Ken's piece superb.

The *Dunera* history will carry the Inglis hallmarks: clear and elegant prose, and sentences that prompt readers to wonder about things they haven't wondered about before. In terms of the order in which Ken has written his books, the timing is good. To this project he brings all that he knows about the social and cultural history of war, the University of Melbourne, the politics and tenor of post-war Australian society, art and the visual image as historical source, and many other subjects that are part of the *Dunera* story. And the *Dunera* history will be the most personal of his books. As Jay has said many times, he and I can help here and there, but the bulk of the story must come from Ken. This history started out as a memoir, after all.

Recently Ken was interviewed by an author interested in the *Dunera*. She asked what he hoped his *Dunera* history might achieve. 'Fresh thinking' about similarities and differences between the *Dunera* boys and contemporary refugees and asylum seekers, he answered. A gentle and modest aim, and true to Ken. As he has done over many years, he will show Australians something of their society and invite them to dwell on what they see.

— Seumas Spark

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Ken Inglis, tireless in his pursuit of Dunera history. At the Dunera Hay 75th Anniversary in 2015. With historians Seumas Spark and Dr Elisabeth Lebensaft.



## Ken Inglis in history: A laconic colloquium

By Ron Reichwald

### Ken Inglis and the *Dunera: A Seventy-Year History*

*Presentation by Seumas Spark, who is working with Ken Inglis and the American historian Jay Winter on a two-volume book about the Dunera Boys.*

*At Monash University, November 2016.*

I had pleasure in attending the above academic tribute to a very special person. Ken Inglis AO is not only Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University and Adjunct Professor at Monash University, but someone who is very much connected to the *Dunera* story. Many of you have met him at some of our Melbourne reunions. Amongst the many contributors to this colloquium were Seumas Spark and Jay Winter. I attended their sessions as they were most relevant to the connection between Ken and the *Dunera* story.

Seumas Spark is an historian at Monash University assisting Ken in writing his volumes of history on the *Dunera* Boys. In a most entertaining and at times humorous presentation, Seumas told us that Ken's interest in the *Dunera* story spans seven decades. In 1947 Ken left his home in Preston in Melbourne, to study at Queens College Melbourne University. There, Ken met three *Dunera* Boys who sparked his interest in the *Dunera* story – Dr. Leonard Adam, Hans Georg Nadel and Dr George Duerrheim. Franz Adolph Phillipp was a 'Dunera' academic who was chiefly responsible for relating the *Dunera* story to Ken at university. Ken also attended Oxford University in 1954 and mixed with other *Dunera* Boy academics.

The *Dunera* project undertaken by Ken has been a mammoth task. Seumas informed us that the source material from which Ken has been working, occupies 17 drawers and 6 filing cabinets – containing emails, articles, publications, files and records of *Dunera* Boy conversations. Seumas believes that Ken's writing of the *Dunera* history takes a broader view than previous contributions partly by, "... taking people with him in his writings". Ken tries to answer the fascinating question asked by many, "What was it about the *Dunera* Boys that made so many become significant contributors to the respective communities in which they lived?"



Ken Inglis with his wife Amirah, and Ron Reichwald. At the *Dunera* 70th Anniversary event at Tatura in 2011.

Jay Winter is the Charles J. Stille Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University and distinguished Visiting Professor at Monash University. He presented on Ken's use of language and literary gifts. Jay is also a great friend of the Dunera family particularly in collaborating with Ken in producing his Dunera history.

Being comparatively 'non-academic', I was fascinated to hear Jay's description of Ken's writing. He made the telling point that Ken writes of the "plurality of truths (not being) ... a substitute for falsehoods". Ken writes in a "language of indirection" creating a "landscape between history and memory". Jay described Ken "as an historian of remembrance". I think the most poignant description of the essence of the Dunera was Jay's view of Ken's belief that the Dunera is the business of families and their memories.

I was quite moved by this tribute to Ken Inglis. Being present with so many distinguished academics paying tribute to their colleague was a new and exhilarating experience for me. That this telling of history involving my late Father has demanded the attention of the most enquiring minds spanning so many years, is quite awe inspiring. I feel that the memory of our dear Dunera Boys is most appropriately respected by the writings and research of distinguished historians such as Ken Inglis.

I sincerely thank Seumas and Jay for their contributions to the Dunera story during this most deserving tribute to Ken.

—Ron Reichwald



Photos: Ron Reichwald

## Tatura Memorial Sculpture Appeal

In June 1941, Dunera internee Bern Brent recorded in his diary that a ceremony was held at Tatura internment Camp 3 to remember comrades who perished when the Arandora Star sank a year before. The occasion was marked by the erection of a sculpture, created by Robert Felix Emile Braun. The original sculpture is now lost, but a painting of it by Leonard Adam hangs in the Tatura Wartime Camps Museum.

The Dunera Association is undertaking a project to re-create a sculpture in memory of those internees who died at sea. It will be located in the forecourt of the Tatura Museum. For the sake of families who lost loved ones, and for completeness of the Dunera story, we believe this memorial is important.

We are most grateful to the Greater Shepparton City Council for a small grant under the Community Matching Grants Scheme, which has enabled us to start the project and we are grateful to the Tatura Museum for providing a home for the memorial.

We now need your help. To proceed with the project, we need to raise \$15,000 before the end of March 2017. All donations \$1000 and over will be acknowledged on a plaque at the memorial. Below is a form for making a donation to the project. Post or email the donation form with your details to us so that a receipt can be sent to you. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**If you have any questions please contact us:**

Rebecca Silk – 0408 808 930 – rebeccasilk@bigpond.com

Michelle Frenkel – 0419 394 375 – michelle\_frenkel@yahoo.com

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### TATURA MEMORIAL SCULPTURE APPEAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation amount: (please circle selection)

\$100 | \$200 | \$500 | \$1000 | \$3000 | \$5000

Other amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Online banking:**

Tatura & District Historical society

BSB 083876 Acc. no. 017093506

Reference SCULPTURE

Email notification to mariaw3@bigpond.com

**Cheque payable to:**

Tatura & District Historical Society

PO Box 156, Tatura, VIC 3616

**Pay by Credit Card via Trybooking:**

[www.trybooking.com/259267](http://www.trybooking.com/259267)

**Please send completed form to:**

duneraboys@gmail.com or by post

The Treasurer – Dunera Association

PO Box 72, South Melbourne Delivery

Centre, VIC 3205

Donations of \$2 and over are

tax deductible in Australia.

## Dunera Association: President's Report 2016



Once again another year has passed which means it was 76 years since the landing of the HMT Dunera and 75 years since the Singapore group arrived in Australia. While our celebrations and commemorations were smaller in number this year, they were just as hearty in spirit.

We produced three editions of the Dunera News – in February, June and October 2016. These publications continue to receive positive feedback. Publishing the Dunera News, with stories of internees experiences, recording book launches and associated events, fulfils our mission to raise awareness and promote links between descendants and friends of internees. My heartfelt thanks go to Anna Wolf who continues to provide professional graphic design and editing of the newsletter at no cost to us. Our Facebook page too continues to be well used by descendants and researchers alike.

Regarding the reunions, we had a very successful gathering at Tatura in April which was attended by some families visiting for the first time. In attendance were Dunera men Bern Brent and Reinhold Eckfeld.

The weekend in Hay in September was wonderfully supported by David and Coleen Houston and their helpers as usual. For the 20 people there it was a different experience in two ways. The weather had been unseasonably wet, making the landscape lush and green and reminding us of the heavy rains that the internees experienced while in camp. It was also the first time that there were no Dunera Boys in attendance.

In Sydney we had a lovely gathering at the Sydney Jewish Museum attended by a small group as well as Dunera Boys Bern Brent and Henry James. It's a great

opportunity at these events for descendant families and friends to re-connect once a year. Thanks are in order to John Ebert for keeping the Sydney group together.

The end of the financial year showed the Association with a healthy profit and we can thank Geoff Winter for keeping up the good work in that area. We have made online payment of memberships and function bookings available through TryBooking.com, and this has been well received especially by overseas members.

Some exciting things are happening in 2017. For us directly, there will be the fundraising effort for the Tatura sculpture project, following our success in gaining a grant of \$2500 from the Shepparton Council. Thanks go to Michelle Frenkel for championing this project.

Improvements are also being made to our website, and I am most grateful to Michelle Frenkel and Cheryl Baer for the work.

In associated efforts we greatly look forward to the publication of Professor Ken Inglis' work on prominent Dunera men, and Dr Elisabeth Lebensaft's continued research on internees from Vienna.

I am most grateful to Selma Seknow for her sterling work on the email enquiries, database and mailouts, to Carol Bunyan for her amazing research and responses to enquiries from far and wide, to Peter Felder for being the master of ceremonies at the reunions, and sincere thanks to Geoff Winter, Michelle Frenkel, Ron Reichwald, Janet Arndt and John Ebert for their wonderful efforts.

I look forward to working with this dedicated and wonderful committee in 2017.

—Rebecca Silk



Photo: Margie McClelland

## SAVE THE DATES 2017

**Tatura Reunion** Sunday, 7 May

**Dunera Hay Reunion** 2–3 September

**Sydney Reunion** Wednesday, 6 September

**Melbourne Annual Reunion Lunch**

Tuesday, 14 November

Details will be sent prior to each event.

Or contact us: [duneraboys@gmail.com](mailto:duneraboys@gmail.com)

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News and information on events will be updated on our Dunera Association facebook page.

 **Friends of the Dunera Boys**



## ∞ IN MEMORY ∞

### **Martin Moore, 96**

23 November 2016, Melbourne

The Dunera Association mourns the loss of Martin Moore. Condolences to his wife Ellinor and to his children Ruth, Stephen, Frank and Peter. Martin was an active Dunera Boy who will be sadly missed.

### **Richard Alexander Perry (Sandy) Circuit**

4 February 2017, Hay

Frequent attendees at our reunions in Hay will remember Sandy as the local who every year played the part of the soldier leading the Dunera Boys and local “actors” in the re-enactment of disembarkation at Hay Railway Station.

Sandy was a great supporter of the Dunera Museum in Hay and a keen participant of our annual reunions. We extend sincere condolences to his wife Beth and family.

## Committee members 2016–17

Rebecca Silk – President  
[rebeccasilk@bigpond.com](mailto:rebeccasilk@bigpond.com)

Peter Felder – Vice President  
[peter@felder.com.au](mailto:peter@felder.com.au)

Selma Seknow – Secretary  
[duneraboys@gmail.com](mailto:duneraboys@gmail.com)

Geoff Winter – Treasurer  
[gjw396@hotmail.com](mailto:gjw396@hotmail.com)

Ron Reichwald – Member  
[reichwald1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:reichwald1@optusnet.com.au)

Michelle Frenkel – Member  
[michelle\\_frenkel@yahoo.com](mailto:michelle_frenkel@yahoo.com)

Janet Arndt – Member  
[tonyjazzman@gmail.com](mailto:tonyjazzman@gmail.com)

Carol Bunyan – Member  
[lcb5@bigpond.com](mailto:lcb5@bigpond.com)

John Ebert – Member  
[lppac1@hotmail.com](mailto:lppac1@hotmail.com)

Peter Arnott – Sydney contact  
[peter@arnotts.net.au](mailto:peter@arnotts.net.au)

### **Dunera Museum at Hay**

Carol Bunyan – Volunteer Researcher. Contact her for information on Dunera Boys.  
[lcb5@bigpond.com](mailto:lcb5@bigpond.com)  
(Note: first letter is a lowercase “L”)

### **Dunera Hay tours**

David Houston  
[davidhouston23@bigpond.com](mailto:davidhouston23@bigpond.com)

### **All correspondence to:**

The Secretary  
– Dunera Association  
PO Box 72  
South Melbourne Delivery Centre  
VIC 3205

**Email:** [duneraboys@gmail.com](mailto:duneraboys@gmail.com)