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THE GERMANS IN AUSTRALIA

Germans came on the First Fleet, and by 1900 they were the fourth-largest European ethnic group on the continent, behind the English, Irish and Scots. Most settled on the land, and place names like Hahndorf, Hermannsburg and Fassifern speak eloquently of their presence. Others excelled as explorers, scientists, artists and entrepreneurs – and the names Leichhardt, von Mueller, Strehlow, von Guérard and Resch's Brewery feature prominently in Australian history and culture.

Two world wars soured relations between Australia and Germany, halted immigration, and shadowed the lives of many German-Australians. But the wounds healed surprisingly quickly, and the postwar migrant ships brought a second wave of German speakers. These 'invisible' immigrants proved to be popular New Australians.

Today there are some 700 000 Australians of German descent. Notable contributors to social, economic and cultural life range from Harry Seidler, Tim Fischer and Wolf Blass to cricketers Carl Rackemann and Darren Lehmann. The interest of German Australians in family background and ancestry is flourishing.

Jürgen Tampke holds a fellowship at the School of History, University of New South Wales. His books include *Czech–German Relations and the Politics of Central Europe* (2002).

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To Amaya Jane, Oscar Jürgen and Tobias Peter,
who are all of German descent

CONTENTS

List of illustrations	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
Introduction	1
1 Why Do People Migrate?	6
2 The First Fifty Years	21
3 Scientists and Explorers	33
4 Missionaries	57
5 The Golden Age	72
6 The Shadow Years	107
7 <i>Willkommen</i> Again	134
Epilogue	157
Notes	168
Bibliography	178
Index	181

ILLUSTRATIONS

Barque <i>Eberhardt</i>	page 7
Advertisement for the German–Australian Steamship Company	12
Imperial Mail Steamship <i>Großer Kurfürst</i>	16
Pastor August Kavel	28
<i>Klemzic, a village of German settlers</i> by George French Angas	29
Ludwig Leichhardt	40
Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller	50
Georg von Neumayer’s second observatory on the Yarra	53
Amalia Dietrich	55
Early immigrants’ school, Langmeil, South Australia	74
Johann Christian Heussler	81
German settlers at Taubi, Tasmania	83
W. Burge’s saddlery in Crows Nest, Queensland	86
Main Road in Marburg, Queensland	87
Berlin House, Hill End by Holtermann	89
Shipboard life in the late 1880s by Lindt	93
Bernard Otto Holtermann	94
Holtermann’s Residence at St Leonard’s, New South Wales	95
Mining at Hill End by Holtermann	96

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 978-0-521-61243-2 - The Germans in Australia
 Jurgен Tampke
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

x

ILLUSTRATIONS

McMahons Point, North Sydney by Holtermann	97
Vahland's Mechanics Institute and School of Mining and Industries	99
Menkens's Middle Wood Chambers, Newcastle	100
Resch's Brewery at Waverley in Sydney	102
Marburg German Club	105
Program for Germany's national day, Sydney, 1914	113
German rally at Highfield, near Toowoomba, c.1910	113
<i>Bulletin</i> cartoon, 1915	119
Holsworthy Internment Camp, New South Wales	120
Villa Frieda at Berrima, New South Wales	122
Bertram, Klausemann and rescuers	129
Rudolf Asmis at German war graves in Sydney	131
Arno von Skerst satirised	132
Helmut Kohl at a wildlife sanctuary near Canberra	140

Note: 1 acre equals 0.4 hectare

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All shortcomings in this work are mine.

Jürgen Tampke
Todtnau, 2006