

## **Redenbach Reunion**

**Notes from the Bairnsdale Advertiser of 11 April 1988.**

This file is a scan of parts of an article in the Bairnsdale Advertiser of 11 April 1988, when the Redenbach families held a reunion at Bairnsdale.

The original cutting also contains some photographs which are not included here.

**Richard Rawson**  
**9 August 2005**

More than 200 members of the Redenbach family gathered in Bairnsdale during Easter for a family reunion.

The people were all descendants of the four Redenbach brothers, Karl, Philipp, Jacob and Daniel, who migrated to Australia in 1855.

The brothers emigrated from Bavaria on the ship "Champion of the Seas".

They were all musicians and played at the Melbourne Tivoli Theatre for three months. But the goldfields were the big attraction and the four travelled these for 20 years, playing their music and fossicking for the elusive yellow metal.

They finally settled in Bairnsdale in 1875.

Philipp bought land near Eagle Point where the Redenbach brothers grew hops.

They also formed a brass band in 1875, and played at many important functions.

Jacob and Daniel took up land at Tambo Upper in 1875, and reared families of eight. Many of their descendants still live in the district. The farm which Jacob owned

is still owned by some of his descendants. Jacob died in 1916 and Daniel in 1918.

The land owned by Philipp on the Mitchell River was sold in 1886. It is believed that he also owned a coffee palace in Bairnsdale.

He later purchased land at Wuk Wuk where he grew tobacco. He had seven children. Philipp died in 1901.

Karl owned land at Wy Yung and died in 1910. He had one son named Frederick.

There were descendants of all brothers at the reunion, which was held at the Bairnsdale Recreational Centre on Easter Saturday.

They travelled from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand to attend.

A feature of the celebrations was a modern edition of the Redenbach's band which played for an evening of dancing.

Three Redenbach family members who often play at such occasions came together to form a band for the evening.

John Redenbach, of Tambo Upper, who is a grandson of Jacob played drums, Robert Biggs, of Bruthen, who is a great grandson of Daniel

played electric piano Philip Redenbach, of Parkes, N.S.W., who is a great grandson of Philipp played electric piano and sang.

The music was well received and those present were sure that their ancestors would have been proud of the musicians.

As guests arrived they were met by Neil Redenbach, Ray Redenbach and Jack Nethercote.

David Redenbach welcomed the guests, and handed over to Jim Redenbach who was the convener of the reunion.

Bruce Evans, M.L.A., whose wife, Elaine, is a grand daughter of Daniel, gave a welcoming speech and outlined his involvement in the family.

A reunion cake made by Thelma Redenbach was cut by the oldest person at the reunion, Mrs Nellie Redenbach, who is 85 years old.

The reunion celebrations continued at Tambo Upper Hall on Sunday where a church service was held. David and Maureen Redenbach conducted the service, assisted by John Kelly, Rhonda Redenbach, Mrs Wilbert Redenbach, Ian

Nethercote, Philip Redenbach. Philip played the electric piano and Maureen played the organ for the church service.

The hall had been the venue for church services attended by the families of Daniel and Jacob. Miss Jesse Redenbach had played the organ at the services for 40 years.

Glyn Timmins, a grandson of Daniel, gave a talk about the history of the families, and conducted a tour of the Bruthen, Mossiface and Tambo Upper area. A visit to the Bruthen cemetery where Daniel is buried was included in the tour.

The reunion started following a chance meeting between Dame Minabel Reid, her daughter Julianne and sister, Muriel Johnson-Need, O.A.M., with David Redenbach in Peak Hill, N.S.W.

Dame Reid and Mrs Johnsons-Need are grand-daughters of Jacob Redenbach.

David Redenbach attributed the success of the reunion to the co-operation between the families.