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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

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Note: 1 acre equals 0.4 hectare

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All shortcomings in this work are mine.

Jürgen Tampke
Todtnau, 2006