

Curious Australis

WHEN ART IMITATES LIFE

As you wander down the main street of Greenock in South Australia's Barossa Valley, you are invited to share a table with three of the village's prominent businessmen. They are the strong silent types mind you, but that's due to them being cut steel sculptures.

The sculptures bring art to life with 'the shared table' being a re-creation of an historic photograph that can be seen on a sign board at the edge of this park setting. In the photograph taken in the early 1920s, the three local gentlemen were captured enjoying an Adelaide Lager beer while smoking and probably discussing business around the table, looking very sharp in their three piece suits, ties and hats.

The surnames of the men Seppelt, Jungfer and Laucke are familiar in the Barossa Valley with each of them being prominent pioneers of the region.

Ludwig Seppelt migrated from Germany to South Australia at the age of 18 in 1884. At first he found employment in Greenock as a bootmaker and by 1894 he had established his own bootmaking business in the town. He worked and lived in Greenock and was an active supporter of the town until his death in 1924.

John Jungfer was born in South Australia in 1873 and established a saddlery in Greenock in 1904 and continued to work until shortly before his death in 1946. He was known to also be a keen photographer and his large collection of photographs depicting life in the early 1900s was left to the town as his legacy following his death in 1946.

Friedrich Laucke arrived in Australia from Germany in 1895 having learnt the trade of flour miller before wanting 'to see the furthest ends of the earth'. In 1899 he purchased the Greenock Flour Mill with a partner who later retired leaving Laucke to grow the milling business with the help of his sons, which he did very successfully, purchasing four more mills in the towns of Strathalbyn, Angaston, Stockwell and Eudunda. To this day the Laucke flour brand is still well-known in South Australia. Friedrich Laucke died in 1957 and he and John Jungfer are buried in the Greenock Cemetery.

The Shared Table artwork was created by local artist Roland Weight, as a collaboration between the residents



One of several sculptures where you can share a cuppa with these old gentlemen

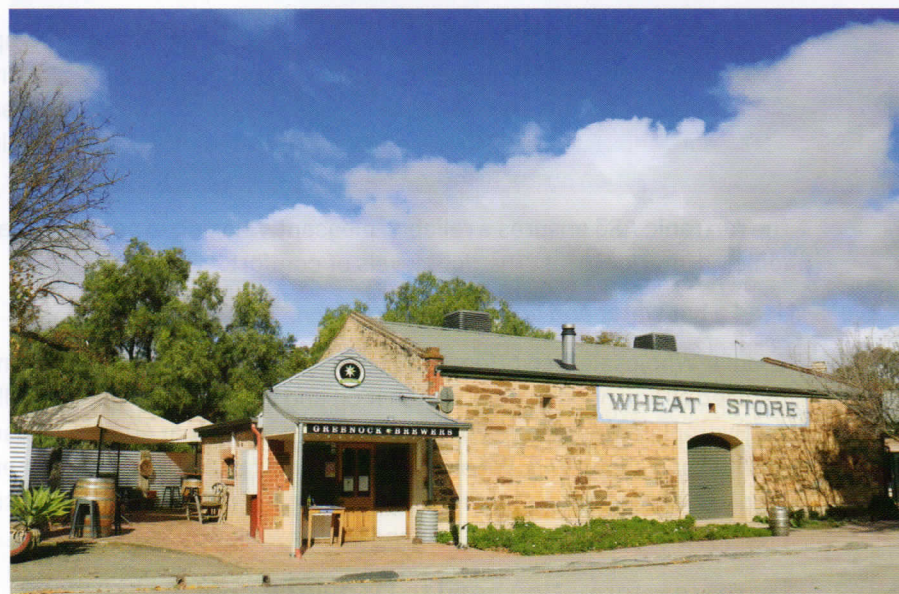
of Greenock, the local council and businesses, to depict all that's good about living in this village. They have certainly captured that accurately, as Greenock is truly warm and inviting with a smattering of small shops, cellar doors, a café, boutique brewery and hotel all on, or near the main street of town, inviting visitors to drop in to rest, eat and chat. A homewares and gift shop currently occupies the little shop which was Jungfer's saddlery shop.

Greenock is 75 kilometres north of Adelaide in the Barossa Valley and with

the changing seasons, any time of year is interesting to visit. The best way to experience the village hospitality is to park the car and walk everywhere, or better yet, self-contained RVs can stay off grid for a few days in the centrally located Greenock Centenary Park.

For a donation of \$5 per night (or more) you can park your caravan near the Centenary Park oval which has water and public toilets available to use.

Glenys Gelzinis



The old wheat store of the Greenock Flour Mill