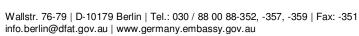
Australian Embassy Berlin Public and Cultural Affairs





Bicentenary of the birth of Ludwig Leichhardt in October 2013

Overview of projected activities

The bicentenary of the birth of the Prussian-born Australian explorer Ludwig Leichhardt in October 2013 provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen the bilateral cooperation between Australia and Germany, in particular with a view to Leichhardt's achievements in science and research.

Leichhardt, who was born c. 90 kms south-east of Berlin in the state of Brandenburg, in 1842 voyaged to Australia, where he led three expeditions into central and north-eastern Australia. He vanished on the last of his journeys in 1848 in an attempt to cross the continent from east to west. Leichhardt made significant contributions to Australian exploration and natural science, collecting and cataloguing thousands of specimens of native Australian flora and fauna. For his discoveries, he received prestigious awards from the geographical societies of London and of Paris.

The Australian Embassy Berlin supports the activities of a local Ludwig Leichhardt work group, which comprises representatives from various institutions including the state of Brandenburg's science ministry and the technical university of Cottbus (BTU). Based in the town of Goyatz, near Leichhardt's birthplace, the work group aims to make his name and achievements more widely known in Germany through a number of local projects and events in 2013. Leichhardt is relatively well known in the region – in marked contrast to the rest of Germany – and two local high schools as well as a primary school bear his name. For a number of years, the Embassy has maintained close links to one of these schools, the Ludwig Leichhardt Oberschule (middle school), which has a correspondence relationship with Bremer State High School in Ipswich, Queensland.

Recently, plans for a partnership between the Ludwig Leichhardt Gymnasium (high school) in Cottbus and a suitable counterpart in Australia have emanated from within the group. The initiative, which appears to have the backing of the State Secretary in German's foreign office, Cornelia Pieper (FDP), highlights Leichhardt's symbolic role in the mutually beneficial scientific and research collaboration between Australia and Germany, which today encompasses fields as diverse as the natural sciences, hypersonics, renewable energy, preventive health, and information and communication technology. In addition, Leichhardt is the focus of ongoing research work in Australia and Germany.

The overleaf summary provides an overview of key activities currently being planned for the 'Leichhardt Year 2013' in both Germany and Australia with a particular focus on bilaterally relevant projects. A more comprehensive listing of local events in Leichhardt's native Spreewald region can be found at www.leichhardtland.de.

Projects with a bilateral relevance or impact in Australia and Germany

Project	Where and when
The issue of a commemorative bullion coin. The Perth Mint has produced a two-	Berlin, World Money
dollar Leichhardt silver coin and a one-dollar base metal version. Sneak preview at	Fair, 1 February
the Embassy's Australia Day function on 28 January.	2013 (official release)
Establishment of two Ludwig Leichhardt 'Jubilee' scholarships for Australian	Spring 2013
researchers by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.	
Ludwig Leichhardt Symposium. A broadly academic event focusing on	Lieberose,
Leichhardt's legacy in various fields. Likely to include Dr Roslyn Russell,	24 May 2013
UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, Canberra.	
Release of the joint German-Australian Ludwig Leichhardt stamp.	Berlin and Melbourne,
	10 October 2013

German projects

Press conference at the Australian Embassy, coinciding with the Embassy's	Berlin,
Australia Day celebrations and the opening of a Ludwig Leichhardt exhibition	28 January 2013
compiled by members of the LL work group.	
Formal reception at the Bundestag complex, including speeches by	Berlin,
Ambassador Tesch, Brandenburg's Minister for Science, Research and Culture	19 February 2013
Sabine Kunst, and Volkmar Klein, Chair of the Bundestag's Australia-New	
Zealand Friendship Group, as well as excerpts of the opera 'Voss'.	
Exhibition <i>Der Australienforscher Ludwig Leichhardt</i> , jointly organised by the	Cottbus, Schloss
University of Potsdam, the Cottbus Municipal Museum, and the Fürst Pückler	Branitz,
Museum Foundation.	opens 4 May 2013
Symposium <i>Tausendundein Leichhardt</i> , jointly organised by the University of	Cottbus, Schloss
Potsdam and the Fürst Pückler Museum Foundation.	Branitz, 27-28
	September 2013
Ludwig Leichhardt Conference. Central conference of the Ludwig Leichhardt	Goyatz, 23 October
work group.	2013
Opening of a Ludwig Leichhardt stele made by Berlin-based Australian artist	Schwielochsee
Sue Hayward.	(Goyatz),
	23 October 2013

Australian projects

Leichhardt Bicentenary Essay and Drawing Competition for primary and	Queensland, entries
secondary students in Queensland schools located on Leichhardt's expedition	closed 20 May 2013,
route, initiated by Sue Boyce, Senator for Queensland.	results announced in
(Details at: www.sueboyce.com.au/Ludwig_Leichhardt)	August 2013
Seminar <i>Ludwig Leichhardt's Legacies</i> , jointly organised by the University of	Sydney, 22-23 May
Technology Sydney and the University of Potsdam.	2013
Publication of extracts from Leichhardt's diaries and accompanying essays	Brisbane, July 2013,
by the Queensland Museum.	official launch in
	October 2013 (tbc)
Leichhardt Symposium on Biodiversity and Conservation, an academic	Brisbane, 22-23
conference hosted by the University of Queensland, in collaboration with the	October 2013, follow-
Ludwig Maximilians University and the Technical University Munich.	up event October 2014
(Details at: www.biology.uq.edu.au/leichhardt-symposium)	in Munich (tbc)
Leichhardt Bicentenary Art Project, a proposed exhibition by artist Bill Gannon,	Leichhardt Town Hall,
curated in collaboration with the Sydney College of Arts.	Sydney, opens 23
	October 2013 (tbc)