

was a complex mix of emotions and for years and years many of us could not speak about these feelings or fears." (p72)

Slowly she regained her faith in God, and in Bratislava met the four young men including Alfred Wetzler and Walter Rosenberg, later named Rudolf Vrba, who became famous for escaping from Auschwitz in April 1944 to warn the world. This was the first eye-witness report about Auschwitz and Birkenau, which was couriered to many Allied government representatives and to the Vatican, but nothing was done to stop the deportations or the gassings.

Eventually Lotte married Alfred Weiss, a widower with family connections, who had also survived Auschwitz. When she had previously met by chance a pre-war boy-friend who had wanted to marry her, but who had no concentration camp experience, she felt that this meant they would not have enough in common.

Her husband's brother Leo, who had survived with him, also married in Bratislava. The two families emigrated to Wellington, New Zealand, where each had children and settled down. After the death of her husband, Lotte followed her two sons to Sydney where they had preceded her and gradually became settled in Australia, although it took time. Lotte's nephew is Peter Wise, chairman of the Jewish Communal Appeal, and with most of her surviving family in Sydney, happiness and contentment have come to Lotte Weiss.

Her style is simple but very readable and, despite the horrible events through which she lived, mostly cheerful. Lotte's positive personality has always helped her to make the best of any situation. If you can only bear to read one book on surviving Auschwitz, this should be the one. It costs \$25 and is available from the Sydney Jewish Museum.

Sophie Caplan

## THE DUNERA BOYS

*By Robyn O'Sullivan, Rigby Heinemann, Port Melbourne, 2003*

**T**his slim volume is part of an educational series of publications for schoolchildren called 'Our Voices'. It was published as a collaborative project with the National Museum of Australia and won an award for Excellence in Educational Publishing in 2003. Its aim is to highlight part of Australia's multicultural history and emphasise the contributions to Australia made by those 'Dunera Boys' who chose to remain in Australia.

Coming out of Melbourne, it relies on the memories of Melbourne 'Dunera Boys' through interviews as well as research via the eleven publications identified in the bibliography. These include definitive books by Bartrop, Patkin and Pearl. The men featured in the story are: Werner Lowenstein, Felix Werder, Max Bruch, Steven Strauss, Henry Talbot, Horst Jacobs, Fred Lowen, Irwin Frenkel, Bern Brent, Karl Guttman, Harry Jay, Alfred Lewinsky. Also mentioned are Erwin Fabian Karl Kayser, Kurt Hannach, Herbert Baer, Gerd and Hans Buchdal, Fred Gruen, Hugo Wolfsohn, Henry Mayer, Franz Philip, Harold Weinberg, Gerhard Schaepler, Gerald Cunningham, Ernest Rodeck, Franz Stampfl. They are represented in the fields of law, photography, design, drama, music, sport, dentistry, politics, philosophy, computer science, stockbroking and movies.

This publication has interesting illustrations and is well presented with large enough text for youngsters to read and unusual words highlighted in bold and explained in the glossary. The story of the voyage and the men's experiences is told simply with historical background and direct quotations from interviews or excerpts from biographical and historical publications.

As an historical reference it is very simple, but as an introduction to the subject it serves its purpose well.

Helen Bersten