

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

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Welcome to 2004!

This year promises to be more exciting than the last, what with our forthcoming visit to Dimboola and our boat trip to the Coorong in October. As well, no doubt the committee will start preparing for our trip to Perth next year for Sangerfest 2005.

A reminder from Herr Treasurer that membership fees are due, and can be paid either for a full year (\$100) or half-year (\$50)

BvdW

SPECIAL REPORT – ALT1858 Website

Since the choir's website went up in 2001 I've received many complimentary comments and suggestions about it, from all over the world. However, there have been some serious problems with the site, caused by the very poor service from SENET, the people who "host" the site. The main problem which kept re-occurring was that the server would lock up about once a week, meaning that I could not make any updates to the website. I would then have to ring them or email them, and they would eventually fix the problem – sometimes weeks after I asked. Their accounting services are also very poor, with Hermann having to continually phone them to fix billing problems.

I therefore started looking around for a better service late last year and I'm happy to report that I've found one. The new address for the choir's website is

www.alt1858.org

This is hosted by an international company called Digitalis, and its service is simply terrific. They have many on-line tools and facilities which makes maintaining the website very easy. They provide more disk space and more email addresses for less cost.

Of course, the problem we now have is that people will have to change their links to the new address, but after a couple of

months this should sort itself out. In the meantime, those of you with access to the internet please change your "bookmarks" to the new address. By the way, if any of you are interested in including your email address on the site (it will be invisible to users, so no danger of being "spammed"), please see me.

BvdW

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

JANUARY

11th: Gustav Beck (73)
19th: Bill van de Water (58)
28th: Lothar Zieschang (73)
30th: Dieter Fischer (54)

FEBRUARY

3rd: Peter Reeh (62)
7th: Hugo Gutwein (73)
11th: Ernst Guse (85)
13th: Ramon Meyer (47)
17th: Fritz Schmelzle (67)
22nd: Willi Sons (67)

If you have forthcoming personal events and celebrations let Bill, Peter T or Dieter F know and we will publish them here.

Singer Profile

Joe Varnhagen (Tenor 1)

Joe is a truly talented, multi skilled musician. Not only does he help to sustain the strength of the first tenor section of our choir, he also tests his neighbours patience by tuning the tuba, trumping the trombone and "didging the roo" the didgeridoo.

A fine sound he makes indeed. On top of all this variety he plays the electric bass. His talents led him to participate with the Banksia Park Concert Band and doing a solo stint under the name of New Echo in the 1970's at the Hahndorf Old Mill

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Restaurant. He added yodelling to his singing and playing.

Originally enjoying a good Russian song with the male choir in Lindorf, near Düsseldorf, he joined the ALT in 1959, when only 15 singers made up the entire choir. Joe witnessed an Aboriginal culture tour at the University of Adelaide in 1970 and was immediately intrigued by the sound of the didgeridoo. He made enquiries through Bob Francis and gained contacts to learn how to play this hollowed out piece of wood. Joe has graduated to making his own instrument, waxed and painted. He enjoys the outdoors, has been on many outback trips, belonged to a camping club and pistol club. And let us not forget that he was our assistant conductor for a number of years.

From the Archives

WALTZING TO A DIFFERENT STEP

The well known Aussie folk song Waltzing Matilda has a historical background that

may surprise many of us. The custom of walking to gain experience for a trade has been known in Germany for some centuries. It relates to journeymen (Gesellen) visiting other towns to get further knowledge and experience. They usually are dressed according to their trade. Food and board is made available to them while on the walk (or auf der Walze). Naturally for a lonely wanderer some company of a feminine kind would have been lovely to have. The swag was the closest such person came to that wish whilst on the walk. So the swag was named Matilda. The name appears to originate from the Danish/North German area and very quickly related to a trusted swag. Journeymen have been on the Walze for quite some distance finally arriving on the shores of Australia and today been commemorated as Waltzing Matilda.

PT



As far as we can tell this photos was taken in the early 1960's.

Two of these good-looking young men (not so good looking and not so young any more) are still with us.

Another was a member for a long time and was honoured with Life Membership.

Can you spot them?

The Last Word

Quote: "There are a number of mechanical devices which increase sexual arousal, particularly in women. Chief among these is the Mercedes-Benz 500SL."

Lynn Lavner

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