

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

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Vale, Gustav Beck.

With all other members I extend the choir's condolences to Vera Beck on the occasion of Gustav's death. We all knew he hadn't been feeling the best of late but it was still a real shock to hear of his sudden death. On the Monday before he died he was telling Peter Reeh how much he was looking forward to returning. Gustav was a great bloke – one of those men who go out of their way to welcome newcomers to the choir.

Sorry to be a bit late with this edition – our fearless correspondent Peter Tamm has been on holidays and I've been a bit busy of late.

I have placed a third information sheet in the choir's website "Members Only" section. It has some introductory information about the discussion board. Use the member's password and download the Word document "Website 03a.doc".

Members are reminded that the points system (used for subsidising travel expenses) is under way. Points are allocated for attendances at practices (1 point), extraordinary practices (2 points) and for performances/concerts as follows: in the Adelaide metropolitan area 5 pts, SA country 7 pts and interstate 10 pts.

This month I received an email from Infobahn Australia – "Web site of the German Speaking Scene in Australia" (see attached). Members may care to look them up at

<http://www.infobahnaustralia.com.au/club/acadelaide.asp>

*I have also created a link to this organisation on the website.
BvdW*

Report from Committee Meeting

- The Club has agreed to fund us \$500 for a new storage cupboard
- The Wimmera Health Care Group who organised the Dimboola concert has written to thank us for our participation

- Renate Petersen has donated a large quantity of audio tapes. These will be sold to members and others as a fundraiser
- Manfred Grafton will arrange to repair and re-frame the historic picture damaged by the SAADV fire.

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

Choir:

13th Tony Horwath (81)

19th Peter Tamm (64)

Ladies:

20th Brigitte van de Water (65)

Singer Profile

Hugo Gutwein (Tenor 1)

If we should ever have a shortage of 2nd basses in the choir Hugo is definitely our man. He proved his ability to sing in the lower voice ranges whilst with the Glockner Choir for many years. However, being a cornerstone first tenor with ALT he is in high demand to remain on that side of the choir.

Hugo was born in Neudorf in 1931 which at that time was part of Serbia (later Yugoslavia and now again Serbia). He was taught both German and Serbo-Croatian at school but found one day in the early 1940's that the latter was replaced by Hungarian due to Hungary enlarging their territory. Towards the end of the war the family had to flee their home heading for Austria via Vucovar in Croatia. They made the 800 kilometre journey to Linz in Austria in a cattle truck in 7 days. Despite being bombed along the way they finally settled in Rohrbach, Oberösterreich. Two years later the family moved to Cornberg in Oberhessen.

Hugo had by now learned the noble trade of shoemaker and also had his first participation with a youth choir at the age of 17. The town of Cornberg boasted a

copper mine, and he found employment as a Bergmann specialising in the setting of explosives. By 1953 Hugo was on his way to Australia with a wife and daughter on board the Skaubryn heading for Bonegilla migrant camp.

For general interest: the ship Skaubryn, 10,000 tons was built at the Howaldswerke, Kiel in 1951 and predominantly used as migrant carrier for the Australia run. The ship sank on April 6th 1958 on its last voyage to Australia after a fire. All 1288 passengers were rescued.

During his voyage across the Indian Ocean Hugo enjoyed one of his many pleasures apart from singing, cooking and wurst making - that of playing Skat. He finished on his arrival as uncrowned world champion, but this is not the only trophy he can claim. On ALT's train trip to Perth he collected a small fortune from willing players in the dice game of "knobeln".

Hugo is a keen participant with the choir and despite his quick responses in the negative at meetings (he must hate a unanimous vote), he really enjoys the company and comradeship of all members. Hugo joined the ALT in 1966 with the help of Helmut Biedermann, when they were both working at GMH and where he remained until his retirement after trying his luck with Brookers and Son, jam manufacturer and Bennett and Fisher.

Hugo has been part of all 3 trips to Germany with the choir, is a consistent helper in the cooking department and chief organiser of meat and sausages. He is also a foundation member of the Donauschwaben organisation.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

For this month's contribution of archival information I would first like to focus on the recently held "SA History Week" held in the Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall (now the headquarters of the History Trust).

The Last Word:

"Ah, yes, Divorce, from the Latin word meaning to rip out a man's genitals through his wallet."
Robin Williams

The exhibition held between May 22nd and 30th explored Adelaide in the 1860's and a panorama of the city taken at the time by photographer Townsend Duryea encircled the main exhibition room.

Memorabilia such as a hand written musical score of "Song of Australia" and the original ALT Banner added to the display. Our musical contribution of Jäger's Abschied and Song of Australia drew appreciative applause and kind words from the Director of the History Trust of SA, Margaret Anderson and the Hon. John Hill MP, Minister for Environment. Mr Hill said in his speech said that it was possibly the first time that German songs had echoed in the previous Army environment of the Drill Hall.

Many other councils and organisations in the Metropolitan area and Country joined in celebrations of SA History Week. The Tea Tree Gully Council for example held a special open day at the old Highercombe Hotel (which is now a National Trust Museum), and added to their standard display the achievements of Carl Friedrich Neuman (Charles Frederick Newman) born in Germany 7.5.1834. He arrived with his family in 1846 at Klemzig, from where they soon moved to Hope Valley near the present Bremen Hotel (which was also built by a German immigrant Hermann F Koch). Neuman died at Water Gully, the location of his Model Nursery on 21.6.1899.

Carl Neuman's father was a shoemaker by occupation but Carl had different ideas. In 1850 he moved to Houghton and purchased Water Gully in 1854. Soon he built a home and extensive nursery in this gully, specialising in rare exotic flowers and palms within 6 hothouses. Some 400 varieties of roses were grown and 90 acres planted with fruit trees and vines. Unfortunately this location was hit by severe floods in 1913, destroying all the glass houses and damaging all other buildings. Only ruins remain today. With his wife Mary Ann Maria (nee Bales) who reached the age of 94, they had 17 children of which 14 survived.

A nursery was re-established at Tea Tree Gully, just past the hotel and is still in business today. Certainly, most of us have enjoyed the horseradish made by C.F. Newman.
PT