

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

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Where is the time flying? It seems like only yesterday that we turned up for the first practice of 2004, and here we are in July. Next thing you know the shops will start putting up Christmas decorations. And speaking of that time of year – last week I received the paperwork for Schützenfest 2005. I've submitted the application for us to work the EFTPOS stand again, and I'll start asking around in a couple of months for volunteers for the roster. In the meantime, keep Friday the 14th and Saturday the 15th of January 2005 free!

Speaking only for myself I'm pleased that we decided to go ahead with the Jubilee concert in September. It seems to me that we shouldn't set precedents by not putting on a concert – it's too easy after that to neglect putting on other concerts.

Oops Department

In last month's Das Lied there were a couple of mistakes:

- The audio tapes were donated by Lisa Petersen, not Renate Petersen. Sincere apologies to both ladies.*
- In Peter's article on Hugo, it was stated that Helmut Biedermann worked at GMH Woodville with Hugo. This is incorrect – Helmut never worked there.*

Whilst we try to be as accurate as possible, sometimes errors happen. We do our best!

BvdW

Report from Committee Meeting

- We've had an informal contact from a Frau Huebner representing the Shanty Choir from Spannenberg. Awaiting formal approach before any action is taken.
- We've also had a couple of requests for Christmas concerts at retirement homes.
- Port Adelaide City Band is still trying to organise a concert for the middle of next year.
- Peter Reeh has arranged to transfer the substantial stock of reel-to-reel ALT concert performances to CD. This will prevent the irreplaceable recordings from deterioration.

- Lobethal Harmony Choir has asked for details about Sangerfest 2005. Since they are not affiliated with the Australian Sangerbund they were not asked to participate.

From the Ladies

Dear Ladies,

I do hope that all are well and fully recovered from recent events. The next function is the Pea Soup day on the 8th of August, and because coffee and cake will be included in the price of the ticket, cakes will be required and plenty of them. As usual, helpers will be required on the day so that proceedings will run smoothly.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery for those people on the sick list and I am certain that we all embrace Vera Beck with our best wishes at this difficult time.

The next "Liedertafel Only" social event will be the Boat Trip on the Coorong in October.

See you all soon,
Brigitte Reeh

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

Choir

- 7th: Gerhard Valk (73)
16th: Karl Ascher (68)
17th: Ulli Kleemann (65)

Ladies

- 23rd: Mitzi Spruyt (80)
28th: Lilli Guse (81)
29th: Annemarie Marten (75)

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

Singer Profile

Gunter Polenz (Bass 1)

Gunter was one of the inaugural members of a choir named "Newcomers Centre Choir" founded by Gunter Petersen with

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the help of Pastor Zinnbauer at a hostel in College Park in 1954. Günter therefore deserved the 50-year service pin that was presented to him recently at the DVC 50th anniversary concert. Congratulations! This early choir eventually evolved into the Deutscher Volkslieder Chor (DVC) and Günter is still an active member.

But Günter's activities for some 10 years did not restrict him to one choir. He actually sang with the Donnauschwabern as well as the ALT which meant he had to practice on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. One of the other highlights of that period was to perform with the Festival Choir in Adelaide.

Günter was born near Cottbus and immigrated to Australia, arriving in Melbourne in 1952. He was a late returner from prisoner of war camp in Russia, making his way from Minsk to Berlin by carefully avoiding every transport of prisoners to Siberia. On his arrival in Berlin he received a rehabilitation amount of 100 DM which he considered insufficient to start a new life. This is what prompted him to migrate to Australia, arriving in Melbourne in February 1952 and eventually coming to Adelaide.

He had no problems finding employment as a qualified fitter and turner. Günter has 3 sons, 2 living in Adelaide and 1 in West Australia. Günter's participation with the choir on the German Concert tour in 1995 was extended a little longer once he realised that our bus driver had to return the bus to Itzehoe. This gave him the opportunity to join the driver and visit his brother in Eckernförde, northern Germany.

Günter will continue to battle on and enjoy himself for as long as he can.

PT

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Most of us know that the Adelaide Hills town of Hahndorf was named after a Captain Hahn, but what do we know about the man?

Dirk Meinerts Hahn was born on the 28th January 1804 in Westerland on the island of Sylt. He was the son of captain Erk Erken Hahn. As was usual at the time he was sent to sea at the age of 16 after his confirmation, and his first two voyages took him to Spain under Captain Peter Broder Decker.

At the age of 18 he had already passed his examination as helmsman and crossed the Atlantic for the first time to visit Philadelphia. From 1824 to 1826 Hahn went on several voyages which took him to Portugal, Italy and Sicily, first as ordinary seaman then as third mate. In 1831 he made a voyage in the Baltic Sea to the Bay of Riga which was a change for him. It was during the period he married Hederwig Nicolaisen, also from Westerland. He had been engaged to her since 1826.

In August 1833 on a trip from Bergen in Norway the relentless North Sea at its notorious Dogger Bank almost claimed him and the ship. Two of Hahn's companions drowned and only the cutting down of the main mast on orders from the Captain prevented the ship from capsizing. They finally ran aground near Ameland, a west Friesian Island.

Hahn stayed on Sylt for a time where his wife gave birth to a son Dirk Dirksen Hahn. In 1836, now a certified first helmsman, he approached an Altona ship owner called Dede who took him on to be part of the crew of the Zebra. Hahn now sailed to Cuba and due to the captain dying within 14 days of their arrival, he was given the responsibility of bringing the ship safely home. This assured him the Master's role of the same ship.

His first important voyage as Captain was between Cuxhaven and New York, taking 140 immigrants. Returning in June 1838, his next assignment was to take 199 Prussian Old-Lutherans to South Australia. They arrived in Port Adelaide in March 1839. Due to lack of space at Klemzig, Captain Hahn came to an agreement on behalf of the passengers to rent land from a Mr. Dutton in the Adelaide Hills near Mt. Barker. This settlement was soon named Hahndorf in gratitude to the captain.

PT

The Last Word.

ARCHITECT: Someone who is neither macho enough to become an engineer, nor gay enough to become a designer.