

# Das Lied

## Newsletter of the Adelaidier Liedertafel 1858

### Vol 2 - No 8 – September 2004

Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondent: Peter Tamm

*This month's AGM was, to say the least, interesting. We had no problems in filling positions, except for that of President and Vice President. I'm not going to offer any criticisms to any member who chose not to stand for this important position, because after all I've only been in the choir for "5 minutes", don't speak German and most members have been on the committee in various positions many times in years gone by anyway. It's just a pity that it's the same old faces fronting up time after time.*

*Having said all that I would personally like to thank Peter Reeh and Wolfgang Fritzsche for belatedly taking on the President and Vice-President positions respectively. Both of these men have already performed "above and beyond the call of duty" in years gone by (see the Committee page on our website), and I hope that for the duration of their offices during the next twelve months they have a smoother tour of duty than was the case over the last 12 months. I'd like to urge all of you to extend all the help and assistance the committee needs over the next twelve months – it is going to be a busy period with the Choir Festival in March, Arion's Melbourne trip and the Perth Sangerfest in September. All of these, particularly Perth, will need extensive organisation and we can't leave all the work to just a few.*

*I'd like to extend a big Thank You on behalf of us all to Manfred Grafton, who retired from the committee this year for health reasons after serving for many years, principally as Assistant Treasurer and Vice President. We have also benefited from the work he has done behind the scenes with regard to the music he has produced, the records he has kept and the general assistance he has given us all when we asked for it.*

*While I'm in Thank You mode, a big Thank You to Barbara Weise for the donation of the beautiful hand-made crockery and vases to the ladies committee (I hope I got that description right!). No doubt the ladies will get maximum value for them – whatever they choose to do with them.*

*Attached to this newsletter is a blank membership information form which I would like you all to fill in. As you know, besides being Das Lied editor and "Webmaster" for our website I'm also Assistant Treasurer. This means I have to keep membership records, and the records I have are incomplete. Can I ask that all members please fill in the forms and return them to me as soon as possible? Thank you!*

*Some members still haven't paid the deposit for the Coorong trip on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Come on, the time is almost here!*

*BvdW*

#### **Report from Committee Meeting**

- As you all know by now, our new conductor is Sergiy Grynchuk.
- Xmas concert: No children's choir is available, despite having invited 4 choirs to perform. Chor Alpenfrieden to be invited.
- The "Doctors Choir" from Germany are unable to perform at our 147<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Concert next year, due to its close proximity to the Sangerfest.
- The official invitation to Arion's 145<sup>th</sup> Jubilee concert on 11 June, 2005 has been received and, based on members' vote, will be accepted.

#### **Report from AGM**

##### Committee Elections:

**President:** Not elected. Peter Reeh later agreed to serve for a further 12 months.

**Vice President:** Not elected. Wolfgang Fritzsche later agreed to serve for 12 months.

**Secretary:** Karl Ascher re-elected

**Asst Secretary:** Not elected. Wolfgang Kretci later agreed to serve for 12 months.

**Treasurer:** Pieter van de Water

**Asst Treasurer:** Bill van de Water

**Music Warden:** Bruno Seifert

**Asst Music Warden:** Werner Falkenburg

**Music Committee:** Rudi Diessner, Willi Sons, Karl Ascher, Willi Hermann

**Trustees:** Peter Tamm, Dieter Schulz (continuing), Horst Meyer (new)

**Vice-Conductor:** Not elected.  
**Historian:** Fritz Schmeltzle  
**Stage Manager:** Wolfgang Fritzsche

## Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

13<sup>th</sup>: Rudi Diessner (76)  
19<sup>th</sup>: Manfred Baier (66)  
22<sup>nd</sup>: Norbert Petersen (70)  
25<sup>th</sup>: Pieter van de Water (68)

Ladies: Nobody!

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

## Singer Profile

### **Rudi Diessner ( Bass 1 )**

Rudi has been a fan of choir music for many years but it was at the concert some 25 years ago at the Festival Theatre that he decided to take an active part in choir work. It would have been a little difficult for him in the early years in Australia due to working night shift constantly – he's a fitter and turner/toolmaker by trade.

His home town in Germany is Helmstedt, in Niedersachsen. He migrated in 1955 arriving with the "Anna Salem" in Melbourne, sailing through the Mediterranean. The ship visited Piraeus, the harbour town of Athens, so the ship was predominantly filled with Greek immigrants when it arrived in Australia.

Over the years Rudi has enjoyed the opportunity to sing and travel with the ALT and has pretty well been part of every excursion planned which included all 3 tours to Germany and tours to Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.

He has fond memories of the train trip to Perth in Gold Kangaroo Class on the Indian Pacific. There were lots of celebrations going on during this tour including his birthday. It also gave him the opportunity to visit his two daughters, one

living in Fremantle and the other in Margaret River, and to say hello to his grandchildren. Over the years he fondly remembers the four yearly Australian Saengerfest occasions, not only by the particular venues and other festivities, but also by the fact that they took place in June, a time of the year that resulted in some very bad weather conditions, (especially in Melbourne and Tanunda).

Rudi has helped as Notenwart for the choir over a long period and misses the jovial gatherings around birthday times when the choir members used to linger a little longer around the Stammtisch.

*PT*

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## From the Archives

What's in a name?

In our previous "Das Lied" we discussed the arrival of Captain Hahn and the ultimate founding of Hahndorf. There are some other towns in South Australia that have interesting histories, one being Birdwood, originally called Blumberg.

In April 1851 Johann Gottlob Bluemel purchased Section 6595 in the Hundred of Talunga and in 1854 he acquired a further section from George Fife Angas. Bluemel's Mill stood on this land and the adjacent wheelwright and blacksmith shops were the nucleus of a town which he named Blumberg, probably taken from a portion of his name Blum and berg, which is German for mountain. However it may also be possible that he named it after a town of Blumberg in the German province of Brandenburg from where he immigrated. The name was changed to Birdwood in 1918 after the Nomenclature committee had suggested "Peroomba" meaning "wattle blossom".

The name Birdwood is derived from Sir William R Birdwood, an English general of World War 1, who commanded the Australian Troops. The local school was opened in 1861 by Mary Mozert and until 1878 it was held in a chapel at which time a building was erected by the Education Department.

While we are in the "Blumen" mode, there also used to be a little town called Blumenthal, meaning "valley of flowers", since 1918 renamed Lakkari. If anyone can locate it on a map, you must have a very good one.

*PT*

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### The Last Word:

**HARDWARE:** That part of the computer which you kick when the software malfunctions.