

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

Vol 2 - No 10 – November 2004

Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondents: Peter Tamm

A warm welcome to our new conductor, Malcolm Day. His style is different and refreshing, to say the least. Peter Tamm will hopefully interview him soon, so that we can all read about his experience and background in these pages.

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Don't forget to make an effort to join the Metropolitan Male Choir at their practices on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm – the address is Uniting Church, Carlton Street, Highgate, off Fullarton Road.

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Our new singer Josef Kriz, who spent some time in Canada, has passed on a newsletter from a choir he was associated with. The Männer Gesangverein Lyra had a membership of 45 on a trip to Calgary in 1981 but have only 14 active members on the record now. A world wide dilemma!

BvdW

Report from Committee Meeting

- Doctors Choir: They are flying straight to Perth for the Sangerfest. They want to have a combined concert after the Sangerfest but it's likely we'll be too short-handed with many members going on leave after the Sangerfest.
- Schutzenfest 2005: We will sing both anthems and one bracket of favourite songs between 5:45pm and app. 6pm. More details later, but we'll have to organise the EFTPOS roster so that our ladies are staffing the hut during our performance.
- Sangerfest 2005: Is being organised by the Perth German Club. BvdW will try and get indicative prices re air fares and accommodation from contacts at Phil Hoffmann Travel.
- Notenwart Bruno asked what happened to all the red and green song books for the March combined choirs concert. If you have any at home please bring them to practice. We need about three sets urgently to replace losses and "misplacements".

- Our music cupboard is going to have new shelves built.
- Christmas Concert: Tickets to be handed out next week. Jens Soenstrom will organise a childrens choir. Alastair Knight will play the organ. Ernest Ens will also perform with his "Jazz on the Terrace" group. DVC booked. Peter Tamm will comperere.

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

16th: Ludwig Merget (75)

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

Singer Profile

Jan Spruyt (Tenor 1)

Jan is a musician by nature - not only does he sing, he also plays piano and can read music.

He arrived in Australia from Eindhoven, Holland in 1954 on board the "Johan Van Oldenbarnevelt" (*this is the ship that also brought a certain two Dutch brothers to Australia in November 1955 – Ed*).

His decision to come to Australia was prompted by good reports from a former neighbour already living in Adelaide. He worked for Phillips at Hendon as a radio mechanic until 1960 and lived at Glenelg North. He then tried his hand at business in TV installation.

Jan and wife Mitzi have 3 children, 2 sons and a daughter. Jan's life certainly is music. He joined the Eindhoven Male choir as a young man of 18 and meeting up with another former neighbour by the name of Gerrit van der Werp, who happened to be the conductor of the ALT. He joined this new choir in his adopted country in 1960. Jan participated with the choir on its two

trips to Germany, and served as Vice President for 8 years with the Australian Sangerbund. He also sang with the Adelaide Glee Club for 4 years.

Jan realises that we are all getting older and are having difficulty recruiting singers, but have lots of fond memories. Some years ago the entertainment extended to the stage with the Blauer Bock being a highlight and a quartet made up of Ludwig Merget, Alf Le Grand and Gunter Brasse being some of the stars of the show.

We are happy to have Jan rejoining the choir after some health problems and hope to hear his crystal-clear first tenor voice for much longer.

PT

Willi Sons Keeps on Keeping On

It was remiss of me to last month overlook a dedication to Willi's presentation by Dieter Mittasch, the president of the Australian Sangerbund, on the occasion of Willie's 50 years of service to German singing.

50 years! Most of us can only dream of attaining that goal. Certainly, I can't see anyone else in the choir achieving that feat, unless we recruit another 17-year old and keep him for life.

Willi was the subject of one of Peter's "Singer Profile" articles in the May 2003 edition of "Das Lied". He is also the only current singer to get a mention in the history pages of our website.

Congratulations to Willi from all his Sangerbruder. We all wish him a long and happy continued association with the ALT.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Our September Newsletter left readers with an open question - where is Lakkari (previously known as Blumenthal)? Ingrid Tromp, herself a well informed historian had the answer. Lakkari can be found in the Hundred of Mudla Wirra, county of Gawler on Dept. of Lands map: 6628-IV or Barossa 6628-I. Thankyou Ingrid.

PT

Web News

- A few weeks ago I borrowed a couple of old photographs from our store-room and scanned them into our archive pages on the website. Here's a small sample. To view the pictures full-size, go to the archive section on the website.



1928



1969

- The "visitor's book" page was hacked last week – somebody, somewhere in the world tried to destroy it. I've had to delete and re-install it.

The Last Word:

ECONOMIST: An expert who will know tomorrow why that which he predicted yesterday didn't happen today.