

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

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Well, another year comes to a close, and another successful year for the ALT. There were a few highs and also a few lows, but all in all I thought we performed well.

Peter Reeh gave us a potted history of 2004 at the Christmas party, so I don't want to get into too much detail about 2004 here. But speaking of the Christmas party, I enjoyed myself. And I thought the Christmas concert in Pilgrim Church went over rather well. Ernest's solo effort in Weihnachtsgesang was magnificent as usual, and I thought a highlight was Alastair's great organ music.

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Don't forget the extra practices in December (14th and 21st) and in January (11th and 18th) for the March concert.

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On behalf of Herr Korrespondent Peter and myself I wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2005.
BvdW

Report from Committee Meeting

The December meeting was almost wholly devoted to organisation of the Christmas concert and party.

- We talked briefly about Sangerfest 2005 (we complained to the organisers about having to sing the Prisoner Chorus from Nabucco in Italian). There's still no word about accommodation.
- New shelves have been installed in the music store-room. A big thank you to Gerhard Valk and Manfred Grafton.

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

1st: Bruno Bachmann (55)
6th: Wolfgang Fritzsche (70)

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

From the Archives

A reflection on Christmas in Adelaide in 1880.

Late on Christmas Eve, Rundle Street became the major centre of activity. All vehicular traffic, except for horse trams, was stopped between King William Street and Pulteney Street. Shops remained open until 9pm, while a good natured crowd shopped and celebrated. The greatest good humour prevailed, and the evening passed off without any accidents.

Variety stores were very popular - Berens Brothers in Stephens Place offered a large assortment of German and French toys, jewellery, perfumery, Christmas cards, concertinas and accordions. Near Stephens Place, J. R. Dobson and Co., photographers welcomed passers-by into the Temple of Light for family group photos (portraits taken in about 2 seconds - proofs shown the next day). Near Gawler Place, Eton and Griffith advertised "Dolls, Dolls, Dolls" and further east the watchmaker W. Hathaway announced "Jewellery, Jewellery, Jewellery".

The hotels were very popular. The King of Hanover, near Charles Street had four large pine trees fixed to the posts on the footpath and the York Hotel on Pulteney Street was actually illuminated with gas.

Christmas day was a hot one - 101 Fahrenheit (38C), motivated tens of thousands of people to leave the city either by the railways to Glenelg and Semaphore, or to some of the shady nooks and glens in the Mt Lofty Hills. A total of 50 trains ran to Glenelg, the first leaving at 6am and the last returning at 11.45pm. A very popular spot in the 1880's - today we just turn on the air conditioning.

Pilgrim Church Organ

The first organ in the present building was built by Speechly & Ingram of London and erected under the chancel arch in 1873.

The choir stalls were situated in a gallery below the attached console and above the central pulpit. In 1908 changes were made when the organ and choir were removed to the east transept and the present pulpit was installed. The original organ was sold to the Lutheran Church in Unley. The present organ was built for a London Church in the early part of the last century - it is thought by Eagle and Co of Hackney Road, London. We do know that repairs were carried out in 1883 and that it consisted of 2 manuals and pedals when despatched by that firm to the original church in Pirie Street. It was later transferred to Pilgrim church in Flinders Street.

PT

A Bit of Humour

The ignorance of people overseas about Australia never fails to amaze me. These questions about Australia were posted on an Australian Tourism Website before the Sydney Olympics. The answers came from an Aussie:

Q: Does it ever get windy in Australia? I have never seen it rain on TV, so how do the plants grow? (UK)

A: *We import all plants fully grown and then just sit around watching them die.*

Q: Will I be able to see kangaroos in the street? (USA)

A: *Depends how much you've been drinking.*

Q: I want to walk from Perth to Sydney - can I follow the railroad tracks? (Sweden)

A: *Sure, it's only about four thousand kilometres, take lots of water...*

Q: Are there any ATMs in Australia? Can you send me a list of them in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Hervey Bay? (UK)

A: *What did your last slave die of?*

Q: Can you give me some information about hippo racing in Australia? (USA)

A: *Af-ri-ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe. Aus-tra-lia is that big island in the middle of the Pacific which does not... oh forget it. Sure, the hippo racing is every Tuesday night in Kings Cross. Come naked.*

Q: Which direction is North in Australia? (USA)

A: *Face south and then turn 180 degrees. Contact us when you get here and we'll send the rest of the directions.*

Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK)

A: *Why? Just use your fingers like we do.*

Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule? (USA)

A: *Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country bordering Ger-man-y, which is...oh forget it. Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Kings Cross, straight after the hippo races. Come naked*

Q: Do you have perfume in Australia? (France)

A: *No, WE don't stink.*

Q: I have developed a new product that is the fountain of youth. Can you tell me where I can sell it in Australia? (USA)

A: *Anywhere significant numbers of Americans gather.*

Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK)

A: *You are a British politician, right?*

Q: Can you tell me the regions in Tasmania where the female population is smaller than the male population? (Italy)

A: *Yes, gay nightclubs.*

Q: Do you celebrate Christmas in Australia? (France)

A: *Only at Christmas.*

Q: Are there killer bees in Australia? (Germany)

A: *Not yet, but for you, we'll import them.*

Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany)

A: *No, we are a peaceful civilisation of vegan hunter gatherers. Milk is illegal.*

Q: Please send a list of all doctors in Australia who can dispense rattlesnake serum. (USA)

A: *Rattlesnakes live in A-meri-ca which is where YOU come from. All Australian snakes are perfectly harmless, can be safely handled and make good pets.*

Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

A: *It's called a Drop Bear. They are so called because they drop out of gum trees and eat the brains of anyone walking underneath them. You can scare them off by spraying yourself with human urine before you go out walking.*

Q: I was in Australia in 1969 on R+R, and I want to contact the girl I dated while I was staying in Kings Cross. Can you help? (USA)

A: *Yes, and you will still have to pay her by the hour.*

Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA)

A: *Yes, but you'll have to learn it first.*