

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaida Liedertafel 1858

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Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondent: Peter Tamm

The picnic in Botanic Park on the 10th of this month was a roaring success. I'd like to echo the comments of Herr President when he said last week that without the cheerful help and co-operation of many volunteers this major fund raiser would not be possible. Many thanks to all involved. I've included a few photos on the back page, taken by Peter Reeh on the day.

I don't want to list the many helpers involved on the day by name, but just this once I'd like to single out one bloke who supplied the biggest bucket of potato salad I've ever seen in my life – Rudi Diessner! It must have taken him all day just to peel the potatoes, let alone make the salad. It's efforts such as Rudi's that make this day such a success.

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Thanks also to all those who turned up to make Günther and Eva-Maria's golden wedding celebrations a success. The singing was great, and the food and beverages afterwards even better.

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Preparations for our Melbourne trip are well advanced. We have been booked into the hotel, and if you haven't yet paid your deposit please do so immediately.

BvdW

Report from Committee Meeting

- The main issue arising at the meeting was the ongoing problem with the choir's sheet music. As Peter Reeh stated last practice, there must be piles of music lying around some members' homes. There can be no other explanation for Bruno to have to continually produce new photocopies for "missing" music. All members (and especially their wives/partners) are encouraged to search their homes and return unwanted music!

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

2nd: Joe Varnhagen (73)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As we all know, the ALT is the proud holder of the Zelter plaque, awarded by the West German Government in 1976 for the choir's long commitment to German singing. But how much do we know about the history of this award? Our historian Fritz Schmelzle is doing some research, and his findings will be included in a future edition of *Das Lied* and also put up on our website. In the meantime, Manfred Grafton has supplied these facts:

The idea of an award to amateur musicians originated in 1904 to honour the musical contributions of Carl Friedrich Zelter (born in 1758), who from his early studies with a singers academy was responsible for the formation of the first "Berliner Liedertafel" in 1808.

It was the AKRON Liedertafel in Ohio USA, celebrating their 25th anniversary in 1904, that approached the Berliner Liedertafel to perhaps consider recognition for such an achievement. The first 4 medals (in silver), carrying the picture of C.F. Zelter, were finally produced in 1909 to commemorate the 25th jubilee of the Berliner Liedertafel. Up until 1930 some 31 medals had been issued as rewards for the maintenance of German song. These included the Moskauer Liedertafel and the Deutschen Männergesangverein Prague, and in 1930 the Erfurter Männergesangverein.

Eventually the medal was made available to amateur choirs that had achieved 50, 75 and 100 year anniversaries and the original designs were modified and produced in bronze, silver and gold. This continued until 1942, but already in 1940 it was decided that any applications

received would be considered after the end of the Second World War. The initiative to continue the issuing of medals was taken by the Deutsche Sängerbund and supported since 1956 by the then German President, Theodore Heuss. The design of the medal varied slightly and

carried the same German eagle as found on the old 1 and 2 mark coins.

As the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858 is approaching their 150th anniversary in 2008 it would be well to remember the occasion by applying for such a medal.



G & E-M's Golden Wedding

The Last Word:

"According to a new survey, women say they feel more comfortable undressing in front of men than they do undressing in front of other women. They say that women are too judgmental, whereas, of course, men are just grateful."

Robert De Niro