

# Das Lied

## Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858 Vol 3 - No 7 – September 2005 (Published 6 Sep 2005)

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*This month's newsletter is a short one, because like all of you I'm busily preparing for the Sangerfest next week. Here are a few details that may come in handy:*

- *Contrary to rumour, breakfast at the hotel is included in your bill.*
- *The hotel bill must be paid on arrival. In addition, the hotel will require you to pay a security deposit of \$100 or place a hold of \$100 on your credit card. This deposit will be refunded in full upon departure if you have "behaved yourself".*
- *All rooms have tea and coffee making facilities, and most have kitchenettes.*
- *There is still no official word on transport from the airport or to and from the Club.*

*The early attendance at the Alpenfrieden concert was, the committee thinks, very poor. At the 11am rehearsal there were only 14 members on stage. Although a few more trickled in during the rehearsal several members did not turn up until just before the concert.*

*The first practice after the Sangerfest will be on 4<sup>th</sup> October, and our AGM will be on 18<sup>th</sup> October.*

BvdW

## *Celebrations*

### **Birthdays September:**

13<sup>th</sup>: Rudi Diessner (77)

19<sup>th</sup>: Manfred Baier (67)

20<sup>th</sup>: Josef Kriz (62)

22<sup>nd</sup>: Norbert Petersen (71)

25<sup>th</sup>: Pieter van de Water (69)

### **And huge apologies to these blokes for not mentioning them last month:**

12<sup>th</sup> July: Wolfgang Kretci (65)

10<sup>th</sup> August: Gerhard Aust (75)

## **Singer Profile**

### **Wolfgang Fritzsche (Bass 2)**

Wolfgang is one of the pillars of the Adelaider Liedertafel looking at the years of service he has given both as a singer and a committee man. With talent in singing and playing an instrument he certainly fills a full agenda in the field of music.

But let's go back to 1959 when he departed Germany from Bremerhaven on board the Castel Felice, arriving in Melbourne and later at Bonegilla as many other migrants to this country. Grape picking was not his calling and to prepare for better possibilities he hitch-hiked to Adelaide in 1960. Not long after he met Janet at the Estonian Club, where they were

with a real mix of multi national friends to have a good time.

Wolfgang's singing career goes back to his youth. His early days in the former East Germany in a place called Sonnewitz near Meissen did nothing for his future work career, so he moved to Berlin where he was employed by Siemens/Schuckert. The escape route to the west was still pretty simple in those days. He used the S-Bahn which got him to the west sector of Berlin, where he registered as a refugee, then travelled to Hanover and finally to Ulm/Tutlingen, where a job as pattern maker waited for him. He took on further studies in Nurnberg to improve his job prospects.

He started with the ALT in September 1963 through Joe Kraus (whom he met at Holdens Elizabeth). Wolfgang always fitted the singing range of Second Bass. At that time practices were held in the Austrian Club in Franklin Street above a garage. The Liedertafel had only 13 members. The conductor was Paul Lilje and the secretary Fred Rudenbeck. Involvement with the Brass Band came through his children who showed interest and talent in playing musical instruments, so why not participate yourself. The Klemzig Brass Band and the City of Enfield and now the Adelaide German Band have all benefited with his participation in the last 25 years. Wolfgang has given immense service to the ALT, having served 10 years as President, 6 years as Treasurer and is currently Vice President - 42 years with hardly a spell. In recognition of his long service he was given Life Membership in 1997. He is always there for ready advice to anyone who needs it.

The tours to Germany are a specific highlight for both Janet and Wolfgang, especially the first one in 1983 where they followed the tour bus in their own red campervan named "The Bedford Blitz" with children and a travel companion from Kelvinators on board. All tours had a different approach with some ups and downs but many friends were made and many contacts are still active. The 125th ALT Anniversary held in the Adelaide Town Hall in 1983 gave Wolfgang a particularly tough period. He had just lost his job but it presented the opportunity to work very hard on the preparation for this wonderful event. Later on a new challenge in his working life came to fruition - working for himself. Further highlights in his memory are the well attended concerts held at the Lancelot Sterling Hall at Wayville.

*PT*