

# Das Lied

## Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858 Vol 4 - No 2 – March 2006 (published 21 Mar 2006)

Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondent: Peter Tamm

*The attendance at last Tuesday's half-yearly meeting was excellent, and turned out to be one of the shortest (and therefore best) general meetings I have attended since joining the choir. Thank you to Werner Tromp for agreeing to become a trustee for the next two years, and thanks to Dieter Schulz for serving in the same position for the last two years. Peter Tamm has agreed to serve another term in the position, so thanks to him as well.*

*It was a pity that we had to cancel the appearance at the "Unley Way to Go", but they can't expect us to turn up and sing with less than one week's notice. It's also a shame that we are not going to be able to go to the German Festival at Dimboola, but our bank account is not so healthy that we can afford to spend more than \$6,000 at the drop of a hat.*

BvdW

### **Report from Committee Meeting**

- The Sangerfest committee has met for the first time. It was a brain-storming session with quite a few ideas tossed around.
- Choir picnic is to be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Botanic Park. All the necessary people have been asked, all legal requirements have been met, nothing can go wrong, all pigs fed and ready to fly. No, but seriously, we are as ready for it as we will ever be.
- Another date for your diary: Bruno Seifert's grandson's wedding on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Celebrations**

Birthdays in March:

6<sup>th</sup>: Horst Reichert (72)  
7<sup>th</sup>: Kurt Salewski (91)  
18<sup>th</sup>: Jan Spruyt (84)  
21<sup>st</sup>: Manfred Grafton (66)

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

## **Singer Profile**

### **Manfred Grafton (Bass 2)**

If there was ever an early starter to a musical career it certainly was Manfred.

Born in East Berlin, he began singing as a boy soprano ("treble") at age 5 with the Staats/Domchor (formerly Koniglicher Domchor Berlin 1843), at a time when most of the city lay in ruins. When he reached age 14, his voice broke and he later discovered that his voice fitted the bass frequency.

He had ambitions to be an opera singer, and to achieve it he studied for 5 years at the Music School Berlin West in voice training and solo performances. However, due to the rate of exchange where one West DM equalled 7 to 8 East DM this became prohibitively expensive, so the dream could not be fulfilled. However, Manfred participated in various operas and operettas (by Strauss, Wagner, Beethoven and Verdi), and also some church choirs.

In 1958 he made his way to West Berlin, was accepted as a refugee by the Allies and could finally move in 1959 to Muster/Westphalia. He sang until 1961 with the resident Opera Choir. He joined the German Air Force in 1961, and after completing basic training moved to Hamburg where he met and married Hildegard. Soon after returning to Berlin daughter Anja and son Thomas were born to the happy couple.

Other highlights of Manfred's years include the participation as singer and conductor of the inaugural Air Force Choir (120 voices), and the connection with his favourite composer J S Bach with whom he shares his birthday.

Returning to Hamburg in 1969 he eventually scored a contract with BHP Whyalla. He arrived via Adelaide with Lufthansa in 1971. The contract with BHP extended to Bougainville Copper and he travelled with the ship "Weser Carrier" to Bougainville as a sparkie and radio technician. The following years included

work for Siemens in Melbourne and finally Peterborough in SA to work on the gas pipeline project which, after completion, resulted in a position in Adelaide.

Singing has always been Manfred's favourite pastime. He joined the ALT in 1986. In 1991 he left for a brief spell with the now defunct Glockner Choir, rejoining the ALT in 1998. Since returning, Manfred has held a number of positions including the Assistant Treasurer, Notenwart, Music Selection Committee and Vice President. He is one of the hardest-working "back room boys" and always seems to be doing something for the choir. He has transcribed a lot of our older music which had faded and was too hard to read, for which we are very appreciative

PT

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

We have all enjoyed our Central Market over the years. It is justly regarded as one of Adelaide's most famous landmarks, and is known all over Australia. Here is a bit of its history.

Opening officially on January 22nd 1870 under its original name City Market, it initially had to compete with the main market at the East End. It was only open Tuesday and Saturday mornings with between 50 and 100 produce carts on display.

Initially there was one shed, but another was quickly added. Each year, several shops were also built on the market facade. In the early 1880s, the market is recorded as having sold fruit, vegetables, hay, fish and game.

About 30 years after the original market was constructed, plans were drawn up for rebuilding with a two story brick facade facing Grote Street. This was duly completed, and further improvements were made in 1915 with the addition of an arcade of shops.

### The Last Word:

"I am absolutely devastated, at least we could have got the day off".

*S. Wilson, Bristol - on the condolence website after the death of the Queen Mother.*

On December 27th 1925, the North Eastern part suffered fire damage. In 1966 a rooftop car park was added which can take 3600 cars. Celebrating 130 years in 1999 it remains one of the high points for Adelaide citizens and visitors from all over the world.

PT

## NOTES FROM THE WEBSITE

Our website [www.alt1858.org](http://www.alt1858.org) continues to grow. I don't have as much time to work on it as I'd like, but over the past couple of months some significant additions have been made. Allan Gale recently gave me some valuable history on Carl Linger, Caroline Carleton and the Song of Australia. Fritz Schmelzle and Peter Reeh have provided photographs, and other people have also given me bits and pieces. This stuff is very useful, but unfortunately it is almost all from the 1970's, 1980s and 1990's. This is natural, because most of the current members would have joined during that period.

I'd like to extend an invitation to anyone who has photos, newspaper articles or anything else of historical interest concerning the earlier days of the choir that can be scanned and placed on the website's History and Archive pages. Do you know anyone who may have been a member prior to 1970 and has since retired, who may have this material? Or do you know of anyone else who may be able to help? I'm sure that somewhere in Adelaide there is a treasure trove of this sort of stuff - in fact, there are probably many places where choir history is kept. I'd love to get my hands on it for copying purposes.

I also have an idea that the earlier minutes of the choir (going right back to the early days of the 1850's), written in German, could be translated to English and placed on the website for historical interest. Any volunteers?

BvdW