

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

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Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondent: Peter Tamm

Easter already! Where has the time gone?

I would be interested in hearing people's opinion about the ABC "Sing Out" competition; particularly what you thought about the other choirs that were there. There was certainly a contrast of styles, with everything from Gregorian chant to whistling, bird calls and of course our own ethnic choral style. If I'd been one of the judges I would have had a hard time classifying the various styles, let alone make a judgement about who was best.

BvdW

Report from Committee Meeting

Members will already have heard about two of the main points discussed at the meeting:

- The ALT display cupboard in the Club needs to be cleaned
- We are negotiating with Mt Gambier to take another trip down there, hopefully to meet up with Arion.

Celebrations

Birthdays:

2nd: Joe Varnhagen (74)

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

Singer Profile

Ludwig Mergert (Bass 2)

Ludwig's association with singing goes back over a period of 60 years, which makes him one of the longest active singers in the ALT. He joined the "Gesangverein Harmonie Froschhausen" as a second Bass in 1945.

It was in 1955 that Ludwig migrated to South Australia where he settled in Mt. Gambier and became a foundation member of the German Culture Club. Twelve months later a proper constitution was established, and Ludwig took on the

position of Vice President, which he held until 1964. An old school building became the cornerstone of German Cultural activities in the South East.

Ludwig has never been shy about holding positions at various levels, and 1964 after leaving Mt. Gambier and settling in Adelaide he joined the ALT through his brother in law Gerhard Hemmes. Within 14 months of singing with the choir he held at various times the positions of Trustee, Vice President, President, Chairman of special events Committee and Music Selection Committee. In 1978 the 120th Jubilee Concert of the ALT was one of the major events that he was involved with. To raise funds, variety shows such as Blauer Bock and some Fashion Shows were successfully held. Five years later in 1983 he was also involved with the 125th Jubilee, held in the Adelaide Town Hall.

Ludwig participated in the trips to Germany in 1983 and 1987. From 1988 until 1995 he was elected President of the 'Australische Sängerbund, and it was during that time that a number of barbecues were enjoyed at the Seppeltsfield Winery as well as the 10th anniversary of the ASB celebrations held in the German Club, Adelaide.

Elected as Vice President of the S.A.A.D.V. in 1993 and events chairman of the Schützenfest, one of Ludwig's major highlights would surely have been moving the location of the Schützenfest from Hahndorf to Bonython Park in 1994 and making it the major success that it is today. Ludwig was elected President of the SA German Association in 1996 - one of the last major positions he held, but who knows what the future brings for him since he has joined the sub committee of the ALT to help with the organising of our 150th Jubilee and Sängerefest in 2008.

PT

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Schützengesellschaft (Shooting Club) 1862

The creation of this group associated with the German Club goes back to 1861 and had regular competitions in Hahndorf, Lobethal and the Barossa Valley. But it was not until 1865 that the German Club organised the first competition, held in St Peters. It is recorded that some 5000 participants attended the event, rather remarkable considering that the city of Adelaide only had 27,000 inhabitants at the time.

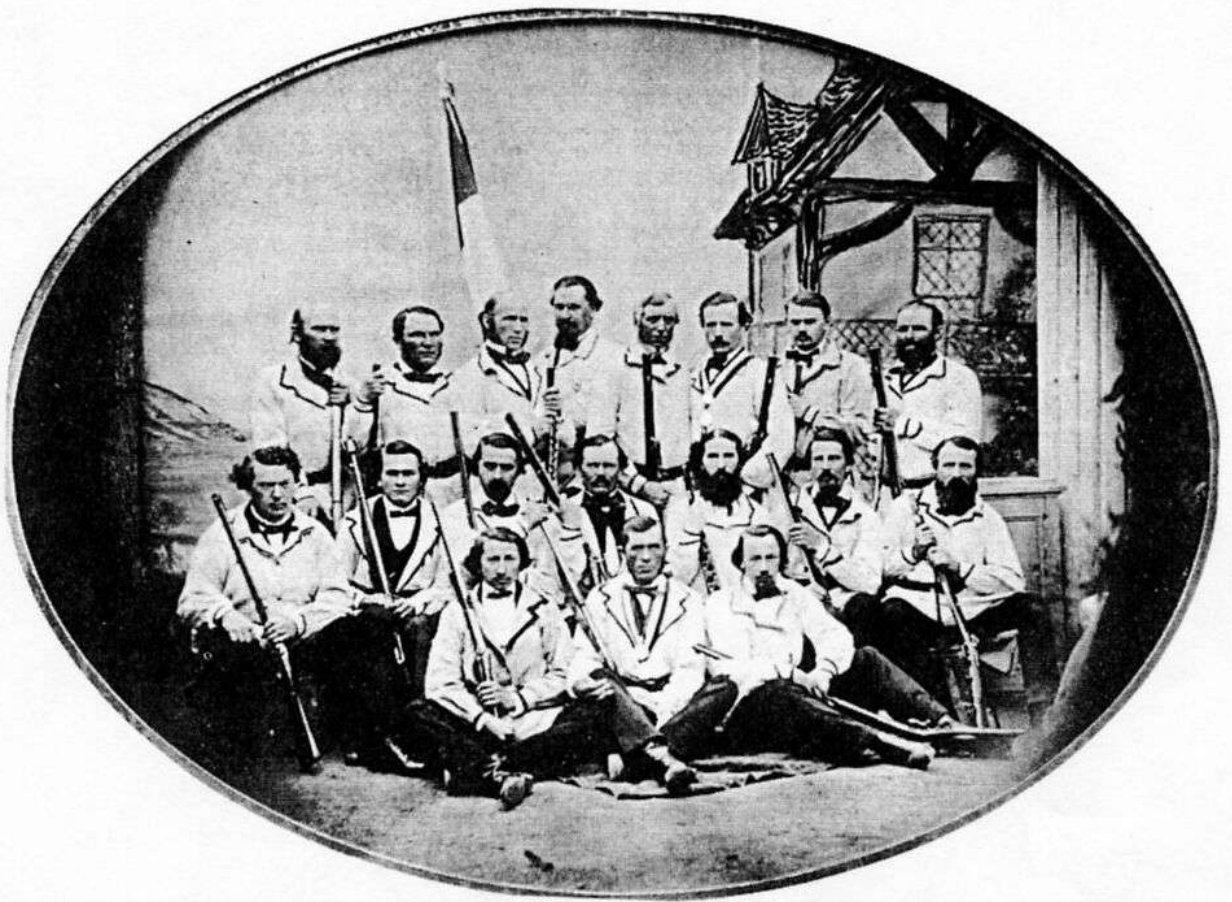
It was in 1890 that the German Club created its own King Shoot held on the 30th December 1889 near Walkerville, about which the "Australische

Zeitung" commented in an article on 8th January 1890 the following details:

It was a very hot day and this may have been the reason that participants' results in the competition were way below standard compared to other shooting events previously held. At least participants could quench their thirst at the local hotel nearby.

When it comes to quenching thirst nothing has changed at the venue of today's Schützenfest.

PT



The Last Word:

*Quote for the seniors ;
Old folks are worth a fortune-
with silver in their hair,
gold in their teeth,
stones in their kidneys,
lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.*