

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

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I was listening to radio station 891 the other night (the Peter Goers show; now there's a German name if I ever heard one). During his "soapbox" talkback segment a man rang up and talked about the Lobethal Harmony Club's 125th (or it may be 135th) anniversary which is coming up. He mentioned that Lobethal was "the oldest continuing male choir in Australia". Needless to say, I rang the show straight away and soon put that matter to rest!

BvdW

Singer Profile

Karl Ascher (Tenor 2)

Born in Nürnberg in 1936 (Karl calls it the best year prior to WWII), he survived the war spending hours in air raid shelters without the benefit of much schooling. But music was another matter. At the age of 8 he was made to take piano lessons because his father thought he should become a concert pianist. This gave him a good ability to not only play a note but to sing it as well.

Two years were spent with the local church choir until he was attracted to a pretty girl and sailed with 285 Marks in his pocket from Bremen Lesum on board the "Castel Felice" in October 1958, heading for Melbourne where he arrived on the 29th November.

Once in Australia he tried his hand at many things, including cotton dying and printing, operating huge machines in temperature up to 40 degrees, assembling television sets and a stint to locate railway sleepers. This took him to Sydney where he joined the German Church Choir "Caecilien Chor".

Karl's philosophy to strengthen the ALT is to almost drag some younger friends along to the practice, buy them a beer and tell them how wonderful a hobby singing can be. If only one out of ten turn up it would be worth it.

Karl married the pretty girl that lured him to Australia, settled in Melbourne and took a job as an insurance officer, finally being transferred to Adelaide in 1964. By now the family was growing and a third daughter was born. It was through the girls who Karl encouraged to participate in dance practices with the Bavarian Schuhplattlers that he met Heinz Kosiol and Erwin Marten, both singers with the ALT. He was very impressed with the choir during their performances at the Adelaide Festival Theatre. He was introduced to Peter Wandtke who taught him to tune into the Second Tenor voice more correctly and by the summer of 1980 Karl had joined the ALT.

In 1987 the Glockner Chor started a double quartet which Karl also joined as one of their first singers. For 10 years plus this would have been one of the best balanced German singing choirs in Australia but unfortunately could not sustain its existence.

Never shy of taking a position it only took him a few months to become the ALT's assistant secretary, followed 6 months later as secretary. Karl served in this position for 7 years, being almost automatically re-elected each year. Although relinquishing the job some years later, as we all know he is again our current secretary. Other expert advice is gladly given to the Liederausschuss and the current sub committee working to organise the 150th anniversary and the Sängerfest in 2008.

Highlights with the ALT are no doubt the first two trips to Germany and the trips interstate. While in Mt. Gambier he inherited the notorious nickname "Ladykiller" due to over enthusiastic waltzing which resulted with his lady slipping and fracturing her wrist .

PT

Celebrations

Birthdays:

6th: Gerhard Hemmes (68)

7th: Gerhard Valk (75)

12th: Wolfgang Kretci (66)
13th: Karl Ascher (70)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

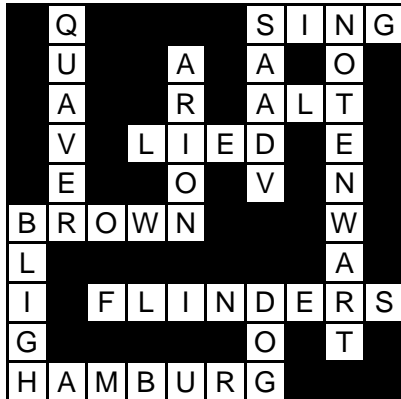
With the Football (Soccer) World Cup behind us again and many a lounge that was previously converted to a sleep-out normalized, we can reflect on the highlights from this exciting period. But where did the game originate?

It was actually under the Yellow Emperor of China in about 206BC that the entertainment for the imperial court was invented. Only 6 players per side had to move a rock filled bladder and apart from trying to wrestle it from each other, get it through an opening in a wall just a bit larger than the ball.

But we have come a long way since then. In the 9th Century the Chinese reverted to a leather ball stuffed with straw which gave them the ability to juggle it. It was referred to as the "hacky sack".

In the 17th century the Italian city of Florence created a free for all version where practically hundreds tried to manipulate this round object from one end of a square to the other. It was through the English tradition of separating rugby from

Solution to last month's crossword:



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

football that rules were finally encoded in Cambridge in 1848. After some further modifications in 1863 and 1875 the free standing posts roughly 3 metres apart were fitted with a cross bar and the game time was set at 90 minutes.

Since 1878 a referee with a whistle was introduced to try to control the opposing teams. Blackpool has the honour of being the first side in England, with the oldest football teams in Germany recorded as Alemannia Aachen (1900), Schalke 04 and FSV Mainz 05. This was due to large groups of Englishmen living in those areas.

Prior to 1871 field players could still touch the ball with their hand. That's when it changed, and since then the playing numbers were reduced to 11 per team which united the leagues and opened the game up for competitions. A free for all version of "kicking" continues to excite participants and onlookers once a year in Workington on the English Westcoast. The one rule that adds spice to the game is the off side rule, but what would a match be to the spectator without some controversy. It keeps the fans talking and hopefully coming back to the game.

I found a few pictures of the Festival of Male Choirs that we participated in, on the MMC website. Here's one:



The Last Word: "I speak Spanish to God, Italian to women, French to men and German to my horse." [Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, King of Spain, 1500-1558]