

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858
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Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondent: Peter Tamm

I've been away on leave for a week, so I know this is a bit late – but I'd like to publicly acknowledge the hard work done by so many to make the Erbsensup-penessen such a success. I'm usually reluctant to name names, because by doing so I inevitably overlook a few. But I feel I have to give everyone's thanks to Manfred Baier, Maria Schmelzle, Sylvia Rosenblüh, Ramon Meyer and Horst Reichert who, to my eyes at least, seemed to be on their feet all day. If I've missed any other hard workers I apologise. It was a terrific day, with great weather and a very good attendance. Despite the absence of a few singers I thought we even sang well!

BvdW

Singer Profile

Bill van de Water (Tenor 2)

Bill's brother Pieter was the subject of a profile in the October 2005 issue of *Das Lied*, so the details of Bill's arrival in Australia coincide with that report. In short, the van de Water family arrived in Australia in November 1955, disembarking from the *Johan van Oldenbarneveld* in Melbourne (this ship actually has a website – see <http://www.ssmaritime.com/jvoch1.htm>).

The family travelled to Bonegilla migrant hostel (near Albury) by train, and Bill remembers being horrified and disgusted when somebody on the train told him people in Australia ate sheep.

Bill was born in Nijmegen, central-East Holland, on the river Waal near the German border. His singing career took off the same way his two older brothers' did – at age 5 with the local church male choir. At the time there were four van de Waters singing in the choir – father and three sons. Bill has been singing off and on since then, including several years in the 1960s when he had his own dance band – the "Vandels". They played in various towns and venues around the mid north, with a regular fortnightly "gig" at the Laura town hall.

Bill joined the Liedertafel because his brother was a member – but it was more as a result of Pieter's wife Brigitte's pestering that he finally made the decision. Whenever two or more van de Water brothers get together with a few beers, sooner or later the singing starts. Brigitte would always verbally slap Bill around the ears and urge him to

<http://www.alt1858.org>

join the ALT. He actually came to a few practices in the early 1990s during Peter Ruys' conductorship, but for various reasons did not join at that time – much to his present regret. He finally took the plunge in 2001 and has been an enthusiastic member ever since, serving on the committee firstly as trustee and for the last couple of years as assistant treasurer to his brother, and spending a few hours each month as the editor of "Das Lied".

In his spare time Bill enjoys making his "world famous" home brew (actually, with mixed success), and he enjoys drinking it even more. He and his lovely wife Jan have 8 children and 19 grandchildren between them, so Christmas can get a little expensive. Well, at least they have done their bit for Australia!

Celebrations

Birthdays:

3rd: Werner Tromp (75)
8th: Maurice Sykes (75)
10th: Gerhard Aust (76)
12th: Erwin Weise (91)
13th: Helmut Biedermann (78)
20th: John van Dulken (69)

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The following article was submitted by our Historian, Fritz Schmelzle. It is the first of three that will appear over the next few months.

Over the course of the last 30-odd years the "modern" Deutsches Sangerfest has grown to be recognised as the stellar German choir festival in Australia. It started in 1970 when the ALT travelled to Melbourne for Liedertafel Arion's 110th anniversary, and has been performed on a sustained rotational basis ever since – roughly every 3 to 5 years. Held in different cities in Australia, it receives high acclamation from public audiences everywhere.

webmaster@alt1858.org

However, this “modern” Sangerfest was preceded by the first truly German Song festival held in South Australia, according to a report published in “*Die Australische Zeitung*”, Tanunda, on 27th October 1927 (Vol. 1, No. 10). The report tells of the First German Song Festival held in Tanunda in 1874, which had as its motto “Wandern ist des Sangers Lust”. Here is the translation:

The first general German Song festival in South Australia, with the participation by the Adelaide Gymnastics Club, was held on the 27th and 28th December, 1874, in Herr P Fischer’s garden in Tanunda.

It is interesting to note that the Adelaide singers departure for Tanunda was planned for Sunday the 27th at 6am from the Hotel Europe, which was then the practice venue for the Adelaider Liedertafel (and apparently for the Liederkrans as well). Both choirs were at that time singing under the musical direction of Herr Carl Puttmann.

A great effort on the part of the singers and gymnasts is evident, as they would have taken almost 9 hours just to travel from Adelaide to Tanunda. Upon their arrival they assembled for the welcoming reception by Herr Basedow, President of the Tanunda Liedertafel.

- *continued next month.*

The Regent Theatre

Many of us have fond memories of attending a good movie night at the Regent Theatre in what is now Rundle Mall. The Regent Arcade is about to get a face lift to the tune of 5 million dollars. But

let’s go back to the spectacular days of the theatre in action.

Built in 1928 for Hoyts Theatres, it was the most up to date and lavish venue in Adelaide. There were major alterations in the late 1960’s which saw the theatre transformed from a single large, lavishly decorated auditorium to two, and eventually three, smaller theatres over a retail shopping arcade.

The cinema sadly ceased operating in 2002. Original elements are still visible including the Rundle Mall facade with reclad original canopy, along with portions of the decorative plaster wall and the ceiling finishes from the theatre. The facade is noted as an excellent architectural example of the grand picture theatres built in the 1920’s. The building is considered historically representative of theatrical and cinematic entertainment of that time. It could also cater for live stage theatre, show cinemascope and produce stereophonic sound and other advanced digital technology through the years. Later changes saw the disappearance of some of the more significant architectural marvels such as the proscenium arch which once surrounded the stage, and the Italian marble staircase.

On its opening night in 1928 the Regent ran a double film feature : “*Flash and the Devil*” with Greta Garbo and “*The Gay Retreat*” (I bet they wouldn’t make a movie by that name today!).

Let me know if anyone has seen those films.

PT



1991 Sangerfest

**7th – 9th June
1991**

**Tanunda Show
Hall**