

Das Lied

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

Once again, this newsletter is late. I can only plead the pressure of work – yes, your editor still works for a living (unlike most of you lazy lot), and I've had a lot on my plate during the last few weeks. Much to my surprise I was elected to the Music Committee at the AGM on the 19th, so that adds a bit more of a workload.

Speaking of the AGM, the existing committee was re-elected unopposed in what must be some sort of record for the short amount of time we spent on the elections. Congratulations to all concerned.

BvdW

Singer Profile

Gerhard Valk (Tenor 2)

The incentive for Gerhard to join the ALT came through the business involvement of both Dieter Schulz and Heinz Kosiol. But it was after his retirement that Gerhard finally looked to pursue other interests and made it happen.

Gerhard was born in Hamburg - one of six children from relatively poor parents that struggled, but were a happy family. He grew up on the ground floor of a four storey apartment building. Due to air raids in 1942 and damage to their apartment the family moved to the island of Nordstrand. At the age of 12 he was working for a farmer starting at 5.30am milking cows.

Returning to Hamburg in 1947, his father managed to start him as an apprentice with a cabinet maker where he learned to build period furniture. However, the business went broke and when an advertisement in the paper asked for young men to join the SA Railways on a contract for 2 years he emigrated. Along with many other young men the promise of adventure prompted Gerhard to take the big step, arriving on the MV "Nellie" in Outer Harbour on 3rd May 1952.

Life in Australia started in "tent city" on the banks of the River Torrens, but he soon left that environment to take a job in Port Lincoln, where he had 10 happy years. Upon his first return in 1959 to Germany he met his wife-to-be Lilo, but it took 3 years of communications before she joined him to marry in Australia.

He settled in Adelaide, worked in his carpentry trade and moved into the building industry. It was <http://www.alt1858.org>

only a brief step from there to try the challenge of his own business, and formed a partnership with a friend to take advantage of the ever-growing need for Gyprock as a ceiling material. After 25 years in the ceiling game they both retired passing on the business to their sons. Gerhard and Lilo have 5 lively grandchildren aged from 8 to 16, which keeps them busy but he still has time to make various wooden Christmas toys and Nativity sets for family and charity.

The 1995 tour of Germany has memories for Gerhard he would perhaps rather forget. The first performance was scheduled for Bad Herrenhalb in the Black Forest. On the way to the City Bath he slipped on a wet lawn, resulting in a complicated break and, sadly, the end of the Choir tour for him.

Always happy and helpful, he enjoys the friendship and company of choir members and looks forward to any travel and appearances with the singers.

PT

Celebrations

Birthdays:

13th: Rudi Diessner (78)

19th: Manfred Baier (68)

20th: Josef Kriz (63)

22nd: Norbert Petersen (72)

25th: Pieter van de Water (70)

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 second of three that will appear over the next few months.

Foundation President of the Australian Sängerbund on the 18th June 1979, Günter Petersen, was also President of the Deutscher Volksliederchor at that time. The background of this appointment is as follows:

On the 17th June 1979 the DVC celebrated their 25th anniversary. The concert included German

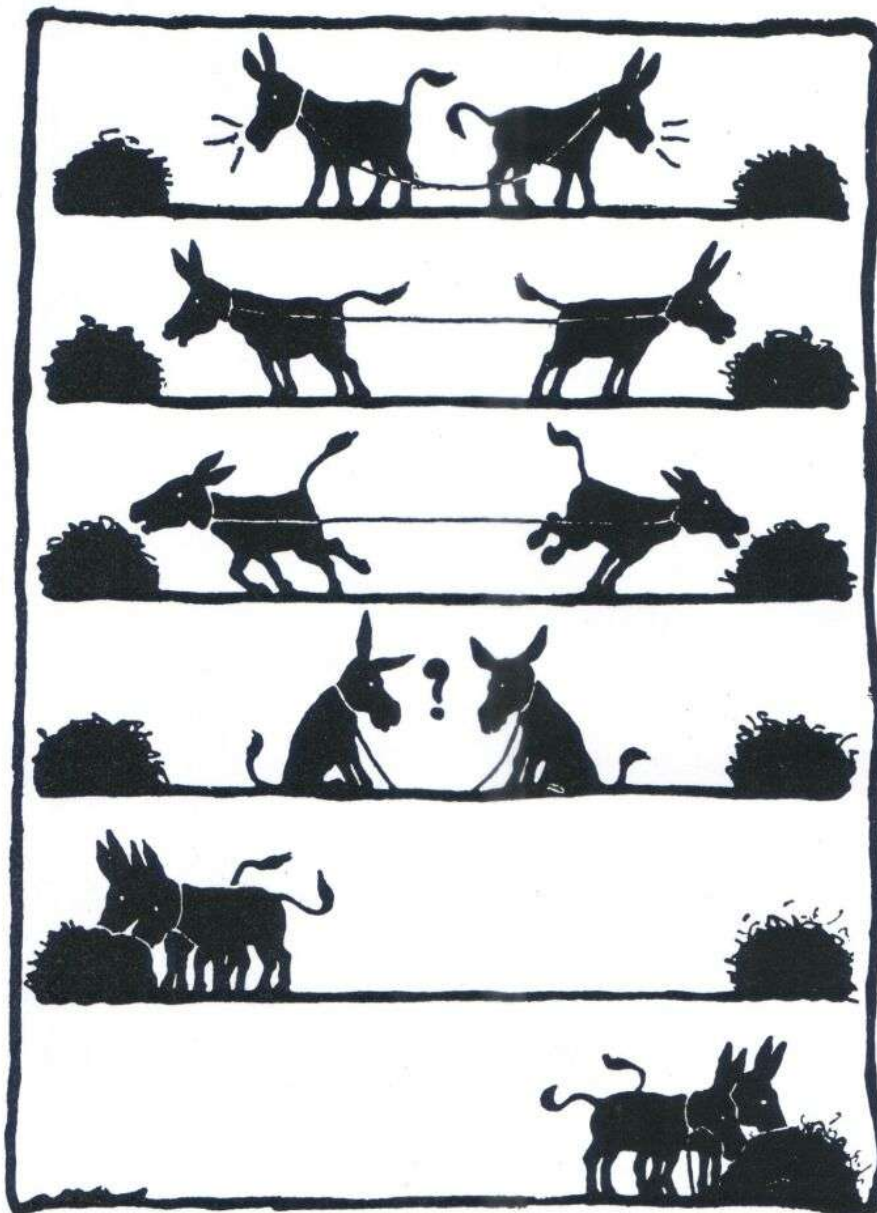
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choirs from around Australia, together with the world-renowned SA Police Band. The next day, at a meeting of Presidents of the attending choirs the Australischer Sängerbund was founded. Günter was later honoured with the Deutscher Verdienstkreuz for his life-long services to choir and choral activities.

Ludwig Merget took over the presidency of the ASB on 11th June 1988, after the conclusion of the 8th Sängerbund in Canberra.

This picture, submitted by Fritz Schmelzle, needs no explanation.

Zusammenarbeit Teamwork



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The last word: It is physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.