

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858 Vol 5 - No 1 – January 2007 (published 23 Jan 07)

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I've been flat out since Christmas. At UniSA we've had big project which has necessitated me working almost every day between Christmas and New Year, and every weekend between early December until last weekend. Well, that's my excuse for not bringing out a newsletter in December. Here's a rare January edition (the first one, I think). Happy New Year!

BvdW

Singer Profile

Peter Tamm (Bass 2)

Like many other choristers Peter started singing in both school and church choirs at a young age. His knowledge of music has always been tuned to his ear, and when he received an old button accordion as a birthday present he marked all the buttons with numbers and wrote his own music score by adding plus or minus to indicate which note to use. This also helped to eventually play the harmonica as well.

Migrating with his family (including a sister) in 1956 from Neumünster in the north of Germany, Peter arrived on board the Arosa Star in March, heading straight to Adelaide. He was welcomed by a heatwave.

This year (2006) has prompted a few anniversaries for Peter. There was a gathering of fellow passengers from the Arosa Star in May to commemorate their arrival, the first transmission of television in Australia and the Olympic Games in Melbourne. He remembers that it was not unusual to see crowds in front of Allens and Cawthorne's in Rundle Street to follow the competition.

Peter started a trade and it was this 5 year contract that prevented him from not returning to Germany immediately. Time changes a lot of things. We make friends, we marry and exploring the country broadens horizons. Spare time in the first few years in Adelaide focused on activities in the German Club including participation with the Soccer Club Victoria. Members of the Adelaider Liedertafel (in particular Heinz Kosiol, Maria and Hans Emden) tried many times to get Peter to join the choir, but not until he said goodbye to lawn bowls did he make the move. Now more than a decade has passed with many hours of enjoyment

and fellowship in the company of choristers and their ladies.

Retirement has not stopped the challenges rolling in, however. Peter and Mudite's 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren take up some spare time, but his occasional work with four groups, membership of the VW and Wine Lovers Clubs and a tinkling with the airwaves on EBI FM give him a "full hand " all round. He looks forward to 2007 with confidence and hopes that some of the ideas and enthusiasm of our young conductor Jonathan rub off on all of us.

PT, as provided to BvdW

Celebrations

Birthdays since our last newsletter:

December:

1st: Bruno Bachmann (58)

6th: Wolfgang Fritzsche (73)

January:

19th: Bill van de Water (61)

28th: Lothar Zieschang (76)

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Christmas and the silly season has come and gone. I thought members may get some enjoyment from the history of chocolate, which I'm sure we all had our share of.

Originating with the Mayas in Central America as a cocoa drink, it was discovered by the Spaniards and soon made its way to Europe.

To soften the bitterness some sugar and milk were added to the mix, and soon the process of creating a solid substance was refined. Casparus van Houten (*a Dutchman, of course [BvdW]*) was the first to invent a machine that extracted the fat from the cocoa bean, releasing the cocoa butter. Henry Nestle followed soon after with a milk powder and the brothers Stollwerk from Köln improved machines to mass produce the mixture,

also making the chocolate bars available through dispensing automats.

To the connoisseur the product had a somewhat 'sandy' taste, and until Rudolf Lindt's mechanical kneading process was introduced users had to be content with a brown, sweet rough tasting product.

Like wine, good chocolates are identified by the origin of the cocoa bean. Supplying countries include Noumea, Madagascar, Porto-Cabello, Amazonas and Tobago.

Product identifiers include the words 'fine' or 'edel' which can be used only if the chocolate has a minimum of 40% pure cocoa in the mixture. Half-bitter and dark chocolates have a higher content of cocoa. Any chocolate buff itching to find out more about the history and taste of this fantastic product should visit the "Schokoladenmuseum Köln".

PT

Not One, But Two!

Henry Lawson and AB "Banjo" Patterson are names that will forever be associated with stories such as "The Drover's Wife" (Lawson) and "The Man From Snowy River" (Patterson) - the most famous short story and poem in the Australian literary archives.

The writers first met in 1890 when both were in their 20's and were proteges of the magazine "The Bulletin".

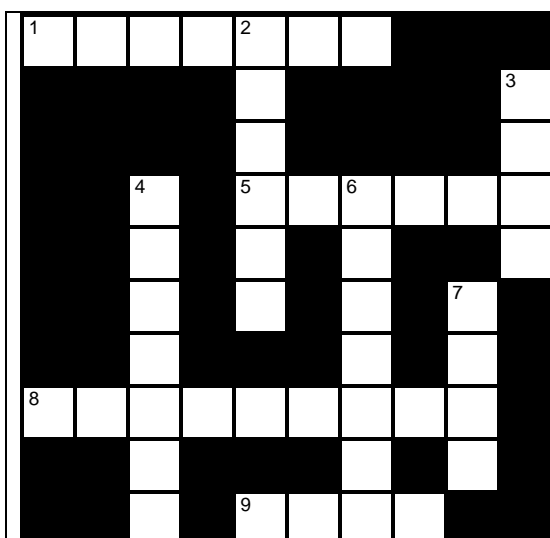
It was Lawson's suggestion to Patterson in 1892 that they should duel in verse over the merits or otherwise of life in the Australian bush. They both agreed later that they needed the cash.

After other poets championed Lawson's side, Patterson called a halt three months later and graciously admitted defeat. The artefacts of their lives are amongst centrepieces at the National Library, Canberra. Rather more memorabilia is available about Henry Lawson, such as a cast of his hand, a shirt and a roughly fashioned pen.

Lawson's fate (he was a recognised alcoholic) reminds us that Australians like their heroes tragic. This trait also helps explain why we have become so attached to Waltzing Matilda, the song Patterson wrote in 1895 and which has become our unofficial National Anthem. A manuscript copy of "Matilda" in Patterson's own hand and a hand-written copy of "The Man from Snowy River" is also part of the exhibition.

Unlike Lawson, Patterson's life did not go down hill after the creative highs, but he was definitely overshadowed in life by Lawson. Waltzing Matilda was slow to work its magic and it wasn't until 1941 when Patterson died that it suddenly became our song in the dark days of WW II.

PT



Across

- 1 Three members are from here (7)
- 5 Name of hotel - practice in the early days (6)
- 8 Fritz (9)
- 9 Member (4)

Down

- 2 What most of us have (6)
- 3 What most of us are (4)
- 4 Everybody's favourite barmaid (7)
- 6 A popular drink at practice (3,4)
- 7 Former member of biscuit company fame (4)

Answers next time.

The Last Word (from an insurance claim): "I saw the slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he bounced off the hood of my car."