

Das Lied

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

Committee Snippets

- The agenda for Sangerfest 2008 is almost complete. At this stage there will be two concerts on Saturday (2pm: Individual Choirs; 7pm: Combined Choirs and special items).
- We are still considering the venue for the Sangerfest gala dinner, but are looking at the Town Hall on the Sunday.
- The Berliner Liedertafel have advised they will be touring either in 2008 or 2009.
- We are looking for another venue for our Christmas concert due to the unsuitability of last year's venue.
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Singer Profile

Wolfgang Kretci (Bass 1)

Wolfgang is another Berliner, born in Germany's capital in 1940. He has memories of running through the streets of the war-torn city with his mother, who carried one sister in her arms and one in the pram to reach the nearest air raid shelter. He says he was lucky to have missed a huge bomb that landed near them but did not explode, and later the hoofs of a Russian officers horse that fortunately did not trample him.

His life really changed in July 1966 when he boarded the "Angelina Lauro" in Bremerhaven for adventures in Australia. As with many immigrants, his first place of abode was the Bonegilla migrant hostel where he arrived in the middle of the night. A trained graphic reproducer, he found it hard however to get employment to begin with until landing in Adelaide.

His contact from Berlin who initiated his migration took him to a function of the Adelaider Liedertafel in the German Club where Wolfgang's wife met up with someone she knew, Karin Baier. From this meeting it took many years, however, before joining the choir. This was mainly due to work commitments with various employers and the inflexibility of shift work which affected his first marriage, so it wasn't until March 1985 that Wolfgang finally joined the choir. The coming years made it difficult to continuously sing with the choir although he always enjoyed gatherings around the "Stammtisch" and the tours on offer at the time, especially the 1987 tour to Germany. Even though he had limited periods in the choir,

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Wolfgang has contributed as secretary and assistant secretary on the committee.

Wolfgang remarried in 1989 to Helga. He has two children from his first marriage and two grandchildren, plus Helga's three children, and the family has grown to seven grandchildren. Other hobbies in his life are collecting model cars and bikes, following the world of soccer and tending his vegetable garden. As with all of us he is looking forward to celebrating the 150th anniversary next year.

PT

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS:

April:

2nd: Joe Varnhagen (75)

May:

2nd: Franz Bond (81)

4th: Herbert Goels (69)

6th: Dieter Schulz (67)

23rd: Gunter Linhoff (79)

25th: Hermann Hintermeier (73)

29th: Bruno Seifert (77)

30th: Karl-Heinz Ohse (79)

31st: Willi Hermann (77)

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Most of Adelaide City streets honour early pioneers that have gone into history for various achievements.

Thomas Gilbert arrived in the colony on 10th April, 1837 to become the General Storekeeper, and shortly after became the Post Master. Appointed by Governor Hindmarsh for a salary of 30 pounds per annum, his location was a temporary hut on the banks of the River Torrens. Mail was received, sorted and delivered from his residence. Postage stamps at this time were unknown, but each letter irrespective of size or weight was charged at a one penny rate. The money received was handed as a gratuity to the captains of the vessels delivering the mail bags. Thomas Gilbert

webmaster@alt1858.org

managed the affairs of the Post Office for 18 months, until the postal business increased to such an extent that he found it impossible to continue both his General Store and the Post Office satisfactorily. He therefore he resigned from him position in 1838 and also retired as Colonial Storekeeper in 1851. His long and honourable life ended in May 1873, when he was 86 years old,

and he was buried in the West Terrace Cemetery. Gilbert Street in Adelaide and the River Gilbert were named after him.

PT

(Gilbert Street was named after him – at least he is a genuine pioneer of South Australia – more than you can say for Rundle or King William! BvdW)

The Last Word

At various times during the last year or so I have on several occasions reproduced quotations from a website set up in England after the death of Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, on 30th March 2002. Members of the public were invited to post condolences and comments. Here are some of the more “unusual” comments posted on the website. You have to wonder about the intelligence of some people ...

"I think that the Queen Mum and Princess Diana are our very own Twin Trade Towers. At last we can look the people of New York in the face".

L.Ward, Mansfield.

"When Diana died I swore I would never smile again, but eventually I did. Now the Queen Mum has gone I cannot imagine that I will ever smile for the rest of my life, but I will probably break that one too".

A.Christie, Hendon.

"She was one of the old school, all the remaining royals are shit"

J.Clement. Grantham.

"I thought she would never die, she has let us all down very badly"

D.Holmes, Somerset.

"She was a trooper and she never gave up. I remember one time she was visiting a school and I asked her if she would like to make a visit to the cloakroom before she left. 'No' she replied, 'I didn't give in to the Nazis and I won't give in to the bladder'. That's how she was, a fighter, who refused to be beaten by anything. She pissed herself later though, it was sickening."

B.Forrester, North Yorkshire.

"She was a marvellous woman and a wonderful lover".

L. J.Worthington, Penrith.

"I am absolutely devastated, at least we could have got the day off".

S.Wilson, Bristol.

"How refreshing to be able to mourn the death of a member of the Royal family without being accused of being homosexual".

J.Fletcher, High Wycombe.

"Her death should act as a warning to others who think it is cool to experiment with drugs".

E. Franks, Cheshire.

"On behalf of all blacks, I send the sincerest condolences".

T.Watson, Ilford.

"Perhaps if we automated her old golf buggy it could still drive around The Mall on its own and bring pleasure to the tourists".

Y. Howell, Slough.

"Once again the Queen is not upset enough for my liking; the woman should have a bit more compassion, how would she feel if it was her mother?"

W.Waugh, Richmond.