



# Das Lied

## January-March 2008

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### Full steam ahead for the Combined Male Choirs Concert

*The practices with the MMC have sounded a wake-up call for me. Some of the songs were unfamiliar, and I think we need all the practice we can get so we can pull our weight at the concert. But weren't some of those songs great? I especially liked "Deus Salutis", which I think could find its way into our repertoire before too long. I also think that some of the more upbeat songs are worth persevering with. Let's all make a special effort to attend all the extra practices for this magnificent concert.*

*This edition of Das Lied has been composed with Microsoft Publisher. Hope you like the new layout.*

BvdW

*PS: I finished this edition before I heard about the passing of our Sangesbruder Ludwig Merget. I will put up an obituary page on the website when I have more details.*

### Singer Profile:

#### Bruce McCormack (Bass 1)

Bruce's heritage is quite interesting as he traces it back to the latter part of the 19th century (1850 to 1880), and to the two countries in Europe that provided the highest number of immigrants to Queensland - Ireland and Germany. He is of mixed heritage. Knowledge of this came about after visiting a gun shop owned by his great uncle Joe Baumann in Albert Street, central Brisbane, with his father. Joe was the last surviving child of Max Baumann (Maximillian Josef) from München and Pauline Richter from Bernau near Berlin. Both had arrived in Queensland in the 1860's and had married in 1869. How does that relate to Bruce?

Joe was the brother of Bruce's grandmother who had been born in Brisbane in 1882, and as a small boy his father had attended German lessons at the Lutheran Hall in Woollongabba (very near the famous cricket ground). However, the Australian-Irish culture predominated in his upbringing as the name McCormack relates to his mother's side.

Bruce's German heritage was one factor persuading him to join the Liedertafel, but the other (more dominating) was a love of singing in a group and to sing in German. His previous work took him to northern Australia, and gave him no opportunity to pursue his desires in the musical field. From the moment he arrived in Adelaide some 20 months ago taking on a job for the Legal Services Commission, it was his aim to establish some social contact. Joining a choir, singing in German and English was the natural way to satisfy these interests. A search on the Internet helped to establish the connection. Bruce reports that he has so far enjoyed the social contact and has improved his German pronunciation. He will let others judge his improvement. He finds the connection very satisfying and being part of the Liedertafel gives him great pleasure.

### From our Web Pages:

*We have discovered that a big convention is to be held in Adelaide on the same weekend as the 14th Sängerkonvent in October 2008. The "International Farmers Youth Convention" will be held from October 4th to 10th, and large numbers of hotel/motel rooms have already been booked. Choirs are urged to attend to their accommodation requirements **as soon as possible!***

If members have friends in choirs who will be attending in October, please urge them to organise their accommodation as soon as possible.

### Birthdays

#### January

19th: Bill van de Water (62)

28th: Lothar Zieschang (77)

#### February

3rd: Peter Reeh (66)

7th: Hugo Gutwein (77)

8th: Ernst Güse (89)

13th: Ramon Meyer (51)

17th: Fritz Schmeltzle (71)

#### March

6th: Horst Reichert (74)

21st: Manfred Grafton (68)

### Reminders

16th March Final practice with MMC, Flinders St Baptist Church

30th March Convention Ctr

6th April Tanunda

8th April Half yearly mtg

## Bits and Pieces

### 150th Jubilee

- As most of you will now know, we are about to sign a contract with the Adelaide Convention Centre for the Gala Ball and dinner on Sunday 5th October.
- Attendances look like being good for the Festival. So far, 14 choirs have confirmed their attendance (three have cancelled).

### ALT Website

Several changes have been made to the website [www.ALT1858.org](http://www.ALT1858.org).

- Jonathan has updated his web page.
- The Festival pages have been updated.
- Our photo on the front page has been updated.
- Several edits have been done to the History pages.

### A bit of scandal

Who was the committee member who broke wind so noisily at the last committee meeting?

He says that the brass band was practicing next door, and the tuba let go with a loud noise just as he was lifting one cheek ... a likely story.

## The Lieutenant Governor's Mr HIEU VAN LE's Speech at the opening of Schützenfest 2008

It is both a great pleasure and an honour to be here today, joining you in the celebration of one of South Australia's most exciting and highly anticipated Festivals, the Schützenfest. When coming to the Schützenfest one cannot help but become "enveloped" in the German culture. I have started off my day with one of my favorite German traditions, fruhshoppen. The Germans are known to the whole world as a true beer-loving nation and German beers have a reputation for high quality. They are also known for lederhosen, oompah music, pickled foods, sausages and impressive facial hair! Yes, that's right - beards! The envy of every Asian man, and the pride of many Germans who are fierce competitors at the World Beard and Moustache Championships.

As you may know, the first Schützenfest was held in Adelaide in 1865 and has been established as an annual event since 1964 - 44 years ago. It is a great opportunity to eat, drink and be merry to your heart's content. The organisers proudly proclaim this annual "shooting fest" as the second largest Schützenfest in the world, after the one in Germany. The Schützenfest is a priceless gift from the German community to all South Australians.

It is a wonderful celebration and acknowledgement of German culture, German achievement, and of the German contribution to the world. In our multicultural society we do not have to travel the world to experience the many diverse and rich cultures that exist. Today we have been given the opportunity to take a journey to Germany, to experience all that is typically German; *oompah music, traditional food, drink and dance*.

Present with us today is a German film crew who will be televising some of the Adelaide Schützenfest to Germany. Welcome to Adelaide and I wish you a most enjoyable stay. I would like to take this opportunity to let those who are watching this telecast that South Australia is proud and grateful to have so many Germans with the strength, passion and foresight that has allowed the community to achieve great things. The German community in South Australia has enriched our cultural, social and economic life immensely and has contributed much to the arts, professions and sciences in South Australia and the world. Germans were among the first of the Europeans to arrive in South Australia, establishing a strong presence and a tradition in farming, trades, education, and the arts. *(Continued next time)*

### The Last Word

**From a car insurance claim form:** *"I was on the way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident."*