



# Das Lied

October—December 2008

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## A Big Year

*The last few months have been hectic.*

*Not only are we catching our breath from the 150th Jubilee/14th Sangerfest celebrations in early October, but we are now fully into the Christmas preparations. I'm sure that after the Christmas party on Tuesday 9th most of us will be looking forward to a couple of weeks rest.*

*For those of you with access to the internet, have a look at the celebrations report in our website. While you're there, check out the new photo album. It contains many photos of the Sangerfest celebrations. Also, members can register and upload photos of their own to share with other members. Full details are available from the "Members Only" section on the website (if you've forgotten how to get into that section, contact me).*

*Reminder— We are singing at Holly Residential Care Centre, Pennys Hill Road, Hackham, this Saturday 6th December at 2pm. See me if you need more details.*

*BvdW*

## From the Archives

South Australia's early settlement as most of you know had connections to various parts of Germany since 1839. These connections included the towns of Hahndorf, Bethany and other parts of the Barossa Valley. What you may know about are the movements of early German settlers to other parts of Australia—in particular Victoria. We had the pleasure of visiting Hamilton about 12 months ago and I would like to tell the story of further movements to the Riverina, in particular a place called Walla Walla, near Albury/Wodonga. These migrations came from such places as Ebenezer, Blumberg (Birdwood) and Light Pass.

The main reason for leaving the Barossa Valley was insufficient land for wheat growing.

Before vineyards were established in the Valley, most holdings consisted of 20 acres and were continuously cropped, but would not produce enough to make a living. Rotation of crops was unknown then and the land was also overstocked. So when reports came back of rich soils and good rainfall around Albury, NSW, hearts pounded in expectations.

The first party consisted of 8 families and 2 single men, in all 56 people travelling in 1868 with 14 wagons (2 horses per wagon), 2 spring carts, (1 horse per cart), and 1 spare horse, a total of 31 horses. They included names such as: Klemke, Fischer, Wenke, Mickan, Schmidt and Luhrs.

They departed on the morning of 16th October, moving via Truro. They followed the course of the River Murray towards Albury. Country was wide open spaces, hardly a fence or gateway, and there were no illnesses or accidents along the way. A number of times they came across aborigines. At one of the camps a chief of the tribe was

### Birthdays

#### October

6th: Sepp Rosenblüh (79)  
17th: Horst Meyer (75)  
29th: Horst Muller (77)  
31st: Wally Pagel (73)

#### November

3rd: Allen Gale (76)  
30th: Ed Kriek (49)

#### December

1st: Bruno Bachmann (59)  
6th: Wolfgang Fritzsche (74)

## REMINDERS

- **Concert at Holly Nursing Home, Pennys Hill Rd, Hackham—6th December. Be there by 1:30pm**
- **Christmas Concert—Prince Alfred College, The Parade West, Kent Town, 7th December. Be there by 1pm.**
- **ALT Christmas party 9th Dec—be there by 6:30pm**



*Happy Christmas to you and yours*

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wearing a long red robe and was riding in an old rickety cart drawn by a white horse.

One night, a policeman with a prisoner joined them for the night. The prisoner's meal was prepared by the policeman. It was an opossum hung on a tripod over an open fire.

The journey had moments of amusement, especially for the children who would try catching the kangaroos and emus. To them the "trek" often seemed like a picnic. Difficulties were encountered owing to the dry year. There was little feed on the track for the horses and cows, which would have been better slaughtered than milked. The fowls, cooped up and jolted about, soon "went on strike".

On the 19th November 1868 after five and a half weeks of travelling and much to their relief, they arrived in Albury.

The settlers at first had a very difficult time. There was a scarcity of grass, rain did not fall (what's new), and the supplies became depleted. Money was scarce. But this eventually changed for the better and further settlers arrived in 1869, 1870 and 1871 to add to the fast growing settlement of Walla Walla.

Today, the Lutheran congregation is one of the largest in NSW and is the location of the only Lutheran college in NSW.

PT

PS. Wouldn't it be good if we could pay a singing visit there one day??

BvdW



View of massed choirs, Sangerfest 2008

### ***The last word***

Spike Milligan once began a speech with:

"I thought I'd begin by reading a poem by Shakespeare, but then I thought, why should I? He never reads any of mine."