

SPEECH PRESENTED BY MR HIEU VAN LE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF SA
AND CHAIRMAN
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL & ETHNIC AFFAIRS
COMMISSION
AT THE
GERMAN SCHÜTZENFEST
FRIDAY 11 JANUARY 2008
AT BONYTHON PARK

The Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P., Attorney General and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Dr Ian Harmstorf OAM, President of the South Australian German Association

Ms Elke Pfau, Chairperson of the Schützenfest Organising Committee

Mr Ron Tan, Vice President of the Multicultural Communities Council

Mr Simon Forrest, Executive Director of Multicultural SA

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

SPEECH

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.

Today, many are remembered in South Australia's place names, both in Adelaide and in rural areas, and this must be a source of pride in the community.

Each of these place names reflects a history of achievement and contribution by the German community.

Our State's capital city also bears the name of an English Queen who is of German origin!

Here in South Australia we are fortunate to be able to travel a short distance to the Barossa Valley, world renowned for its wines which owes its success to the region's rich German history and influence.

I am glad ... South Australians are glad ... that so many Germans chose to make their new lives here in our great State.

Amongst the many achievements of South Australia's German community, this year marks the 150 years since the formation of the Adelaider Liedertafel.

Unfortunately I was too late getting to Australia to attend the first concert in 1858 ... but I certainly plan to attend the 150th anniversary concert on October 4 this year.

I would like to congratulate and pay tribute to the German Association and its organisers for their hard work and dedication in bringing the Schützenfest to us every year, and for the many years of successes and achievements.

This festival is testament to the great journey of multiculturalism we have all been taking together, and the rewards it offers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Ian Harmstorf who - for his tireless work in bringing back the almost forgotten history of the early German migrants who took refuge and settled in South Australia - was honored by the Government of the Federation of the Republic of Germany early this year with the highest Medal of Order of Merit ever offered to a person outside of Germany.

Warm congratulations to you Ian!

So - get into the German festive spirit and grab yourself a Bratwurst with some sauerkraut and wash it down with an ice cold beer. Delicious!

Meine Damen und Herren

Mit Martin Lutar's Worten sagen wir

"Wer nicht liebt Wein, Weib und Gesang

Der bleibt ein Narr sein Lebenlang"

(Er hat allerdings das Bier vergessen)

Und, meine Damen und Herren, Narren wollen wir nicht sein

Also, auf zum Schützenfest

Viel Spaß!

[We say with Martin Luther,

Whoever doesn't love wine, women and song

Remains a fool for their whole life long

(By the way, he forgot the beer!)

And, Ladies and Gentlemen, we don't want to be fools

Therefore, off to the Schützenfest

Enjoy yourself}

Without further ado, it is my pleasant duty, and an honour, to declare the 2008 Schützenfest officially open!