

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Another seminar has come and gone - and from the comments made to me by various members the presentations by our four speakers were very much appreciated. I would like to restate my appreciation and thanks for each of the speakers who so readily agreed to participate and gave up much valuable time in the preparation of and presentation of their talks. As I mentioned in my thanks to them on the day I find it quite gratifying that these people so readily make themselves available.

I also noted with great pleasure that there were quite a number of newer and younger members present and I hope this trend will continue.

It was also a great pleasure to welcome the West Australian soprano Lisa Harper Brown (who came as a visitor) to the seminar. As yet many of you may not have heard her sing but I, and some members of the committee heard her at the regional finals of the Metropolitan Auditions and also the finals of the German Operatic Awards, and although no prize was awarded in the German competition she was the only participant who received a highly-commended award. Personally I was VERY impressed with the quality of her voice - and you will have an opportunity to judge this for yourselves if you attend the forthcoming Walküre as she is singing the role of Gerhilde. It is very gratifying to see professional performers come to our functions as 'one of the mob'.

As regards the Adelaide Ring Cycle - I have been hearing various rumours - but as yet have had no official confirmation as to ticket allocation, travel arrangements etc. However it may be that something official will materialise quite soon. If it does I will be in touch with all those who expressed interest as quickly as possible.

Some time ago I referred to a possible recital by the pianist Stefan Mickisch. A committee member met him earlier this year and was told that his performance fee for a recital would be \$3,000 (not negotiable). Taking into account the additional costs that would be incurred (hall hire, advertising etc) and also the information given to me relating to the numbers that attended his Adelaide and Melbourne recitals, it was obvious that it would be financially suicidal for us to attempt a recital.

I look forward to meeting as many members as possible on 8th December at our Christmas party which promises some festive fare following a short program of entertainment. Finally may I take this opportunity on behalf of the committee and myself of wishing each of you every success and happiness for the forthcoming year.

Thanks to you all,

PAUL LEHMANN
President