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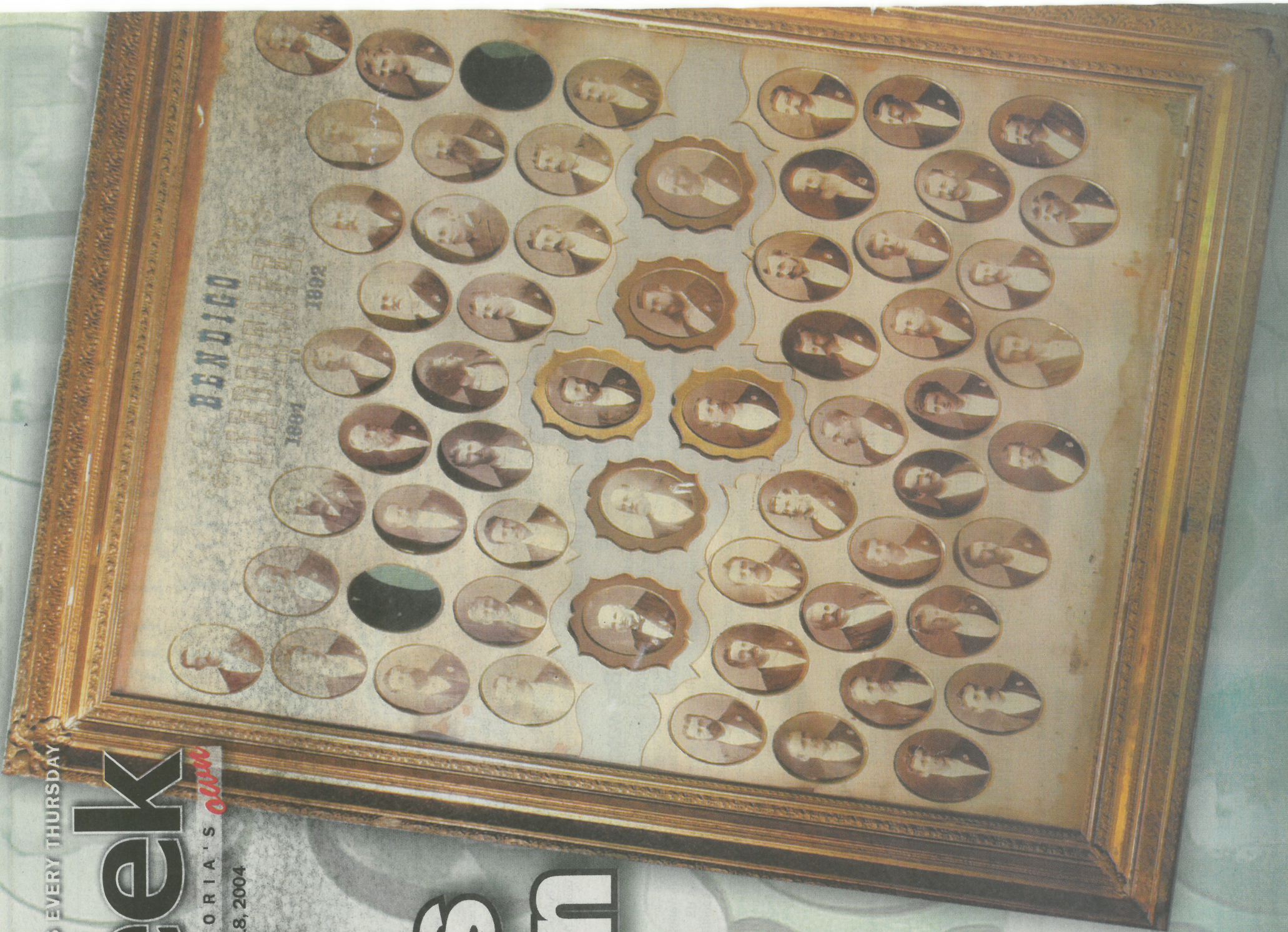
# Faces Lost in time

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## Yacht club faces dry dock

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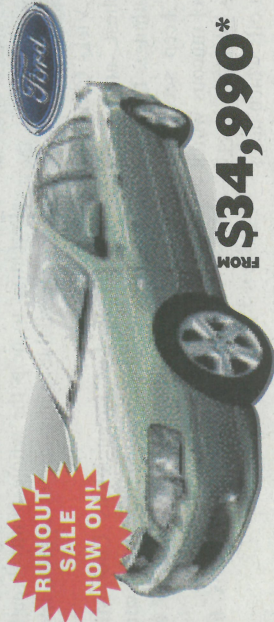
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# Collage holds key to Liedertafel mystery

By JAMES TAYLOR

**A** CHOIR is raising money to restore part of Bendigo's German heritage. The German Friendship Society and Euro Fest choir are raising money to cover the costs of repairing a collage featuring members of the Bendigo Liedertafel, which dates from 1892.

"It was a group of men who used to sit around a table and sing," the German Friendship Society's Heidi Teague said.

"In German, 'lieder' means sing, and 'tafel' is a festive table."

A liedertafel is a popular name for any society or club that sings male harmony, often, but not necessarily, in the German language.

The Bendigo Liedertafel collage is 160 cm by



ABOVE: Alan Russ plays accordion with fellow members of the Euro Fest Choir.

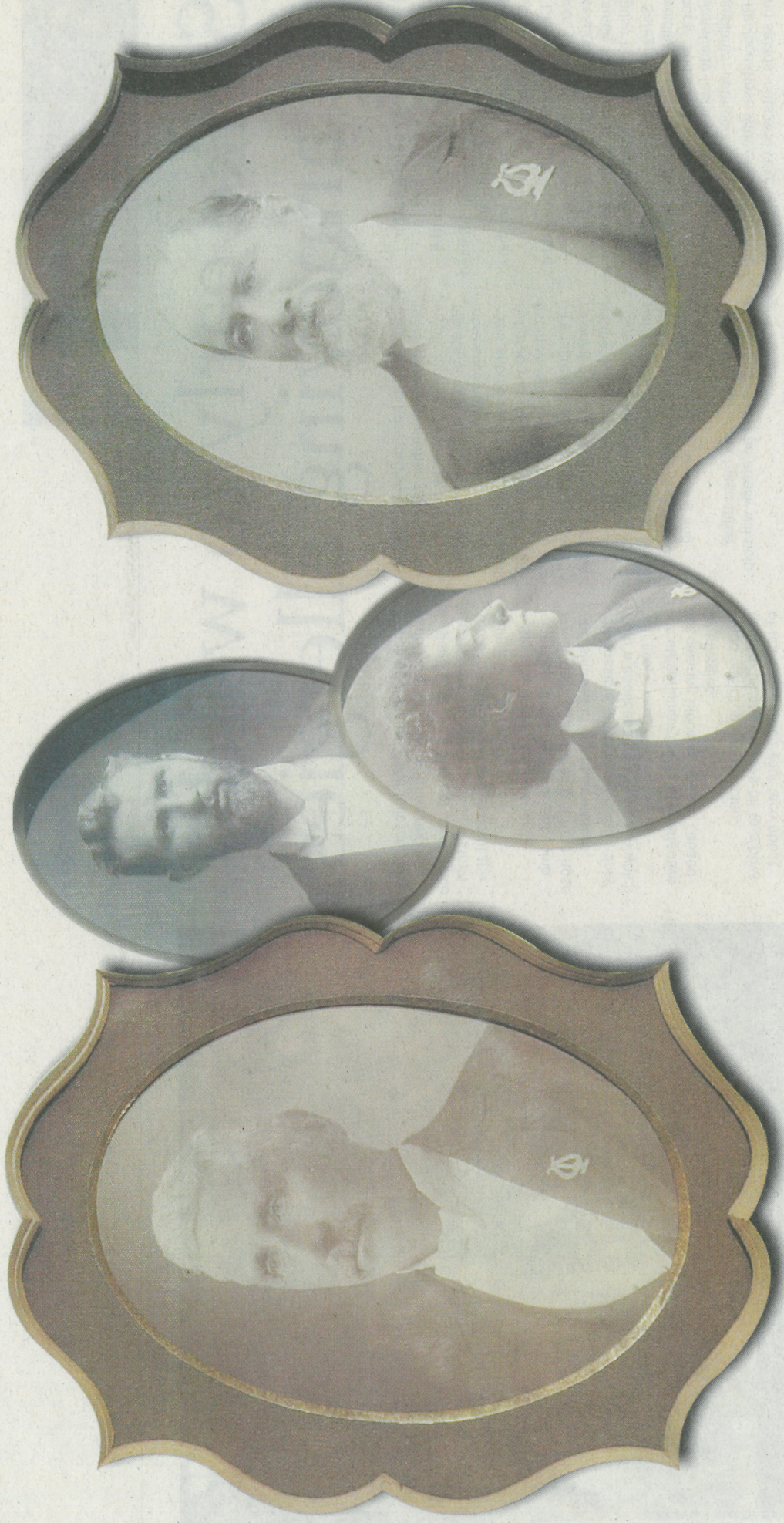


LEFT: Of the 60 portrait shots in the collage the name of only one is known. James Walker, the secretary of the Liedertafel (right), was identified by his son Donald Walker.

RIGHT: Technical manager at the Capital, Rob Sowinski, with the collage of Bendigo's Liedertafel group, which dates from 1892.

Photos: Peter Hyett and Andrew Perryman





140 cm and features 60 photos of the group's members. Two are missing.

"It's quite imposing, but it's more badly damaged than the photographs suggest," Ms Teague said.

The gilded frame is brittle and crumbling. "We couldn't wait any longer, things are falling apart."

"I discovered this 10 years ago, leaning against a wall in The Capital, then it disappeared."

"At first we thought the Freemasons had taken it, but years later, I found it again sitting in the Capital's cellar."

Ms Teague said the estimated cost of repairing the collage varies from between \$2000 and \$8000. The group has raised \$900 to date.

The Euro Fest choir has expanded its membership beyond a traditional Liedertafel to include women, Ms Teague said.

"We usually sing in German, but we also sing some German songs that have been translated into English," she said.

"The old German folk songs are very melodic and flow very easily. The tunes are more catchy than English songs."

The choir regularly performs at events across the Bendigo region.

"We're not quite so young, but we're still together. Because we're a small group, we're not as formal now," Ms Teague said.

Many German songs have been adapted to other languages.

"Tunes that originated in Bavaria or Bohemia

have spread all over Europe," Ms Teague said. "The same thing happens today with pop songs."

The most famous of these is the ubiquitous Christmas carol Silent Night.

The words were originally written as Stille Nacht in 1816, by Catholic priest Joseph Mohr in Mariapfarr, Austria, with a melody added by Franz Gruber two years later.

As well as raising money for its restoration, Ms Teague said the choir's performances could help identify the people whose photographs appear in the collage.

"We would like to find out more about the German Liedertafel. They didn't sing in German, despite the German name."

After its restoration, the collage will most

likely be displayed in public. One possible location is the Black Swan Hotel, which was home to Bendigo's German Association in the 19th century.

Ms Teague said news of the collage may help jog people's memories about a family member who was part of the Bendigo Liedertafel or another similar singing group.

"What a pity it is to have all the wonderful information about the cultural activities of Bendigo hidden. We could make so much of it."

The Euro Fest choir next performs on Tuesday, November 30, at the Bendigo Uniting Church, 25 Forest Street, at 7.30pm.

**Anyone with information on the Bendigo Liedertafel is asked to phone Heidi Teague on 5442 7662.**

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