



The Brisbane German Club Newsletter



416 VULTURE ST
KANGAROO POINT, 4169
(07) 3391-2434

admin@brisbanegermanclub.com
www.brisbanegermanclub.com

Club Trading Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday - Thursday: 11:00 am - 9:00 pm

Friday & Saturday: 11:00 am - 10:30 pm

Sunday: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10:00 am to 6:00 pm



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Committee

President: Michaela Sowden

Vice President: Chris Fletcher

Treasurer: Reimer Moeller

Board of Directors:

Kathy Carseldine, Markus Stepin,

Michelle Hughes, Nick Sowden, Paula

Hay, Robert Hughes.

Brisbane German Club

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Members Christmas Party & Frühschoppen

14/12/2025 from 11:00 am

Liedertafel/Liederkrantz Concert

14/12/2025 from 2.30 pm

[Book your free ticket here](#)

Christmas/New Year Trade

The Brisbane German Club will be closed from 4:00 pm 24 Dec, 25 Dec, and 26 Dec and then from 29 Dec until the 08 Jan 2026.

We will be trading on Sat 27 Dec for a Gabba game day with our express menu for dinner, and Sun 28 Dec for the very last Pork Knuckle Sunday this year!

We will be back open in 2026 at 11:00 am on Fri 09 Jan.

**We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**

President's Report

Liebe Mitglieder,

As we approach the Christmas and New Year period, it is worthwhile to reflect on the recent months. September was not the busiest month, and we certainly sensed that the hospitality sector was experiencing challenging times. Our staff, under the leadership of Trent, were diligently preparing for Oktoberfest, which once again proved to be very successful. Our revenue saw a slight increase, despite a decrease in patron numbers. Trent implemented some very effective incentives and also introduced twilight tickets, which contributed to a reduction in no-shows. Trent also moved the merchandise next to the can bar, and also had a sausage sizzle going. This was an excellent idea, as sales increased and the atmosphere was wonderful with the lingering scent of the barbecue.

The opening was well attended. Prof. Michael Rosemann and Jon Krause MP tapped the keg together to open Oktoberfest. We also welcomed Trina Massey, our local councillor, as well as Renee Coffey MP and Lisa Atwood, councillor for Doboy, representing Lord Mayor Adrian Schrunner.

Huge thanks to Trent, Simone, Tobi, Pia, Tory, Ebony, and all the staff—Oktoberfest wouldn't have been such a hit without them. Unfortunately, a massive storm on the last Sunday wrecked our gazebo's metal frame. Besides some hail damage to a skylight, that was luckily all the damage we saw.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Kathy and Elke for their exceptional efforts in selling a record number of raffle tickets over the past four weeks. The mini kegs proved to be incredibly popular, and we are pleased to report that all of them were successfully raffled off.

Furthermore, I would like to express my appreciation to the Choir and Alpenrosen for their wonderful performances, which significantly enhanced the festive atmosphere of Oktoberfest.

During German Week, held in the first ten days of the month, we were honored to participate once again. Reimer, Paula, and I attended the opening ceremony. The German Heritage Seminar, hosted at the Club, was highly informative, and the German-style bingo event was very well-attended.

President's Report

From a financial perspective, the Club is performing well. The Board has decided to diversify our term deposits to mitigate financial risks while simultaneously maximizing income.

Kathy is coordinating the Children's Christmas Party, which is scheduled for the end of November. This event will be followed by the Members' Christmas Party on Frühschoppen Sunday in December. The Choir will host their Christmas concert subsequent to the Christmas Party. I sincerely hope for a strong turnout from our members.

We will be conducting a trial opening of the Club on December 27th and 28th. We invite you to visit us during these dates to experience our selection of fine German beers.

I am writing in anticipation of the upcoming Annual General Meeting. I would like to express my gratitude to Alex, Kathy, Michelle, Reimer, and Chris for their valuable contributions over the past two years. I extend my best wishes to them for the upcoming elections.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our manager, Trent Boyle, for his exceptional dedication and hard work over the past several months, particularly during the last two months. He not only demonstrated outstanding organizational skills in orchestrating Oktoberfest but also successfully assembled a highly effective team.

Overall, it has been a very busy but rewarding period for everyone involved.

Abschließend wünsche ich Ihnen ein frohes Weihnachtsfest und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bleibt gesund. Stay safe!

Bis bald

Eure Präsidentin

Michaela Sowden

Club Manager's Report

Dear Members,

It feels like six months have passed since I last penned one of these columns, which I guess is a good sign of how busy we've been!

I'm very proud to report that we've continued to build on the success of 2024's Oktoberfest by enhancing and refining again this year.

Although patronage was down, the total spend (and therefore average spend) was up. Which was a result of a concerted effort to minimise wastage by increasing the ticket price for non-members but also including more value with it, and that seems to have paid dividends.

Our feats for the Oktoberfest festival this year got plenty of attention in the press regarding our achievement of being the only venue in the world (that we know of at least, yet to be disproven), to have Bier from all six of the official Munich Oktoberfest breweries on tap side-by-side.

Including from the Münchner Merkur (and their syndicated papers) – which you can read on page 21 – who were intrigued by Australia's fascination with Oktoberfest and German Bier, and even were so bold to ask me "why, was our beer really that bad". Thankfully, they did not publish my response so I do not need to go into hiding from the locals here!

A huge thanks to everyone that played a part in bringing this to life: our amazing team (with our splendid photo at our afterparty adorning the front page), our suppliers (special shout-out to Josef Barth), our Alpenrosen dance group, our Liedertafel\Liederkrantz choir, Club Patron and Honorary Consular for Germany in Brisbane Prof. Dr. Michael Rosemann and invited guests, but especially our members and patrons for your attendance.

Up ahead we have the Ashes Cricket Test Match at the Gabba in early December and a busy festive season to keep us on our toes. Please do book ahead when you're planning on visiting, as we have already started having service periods book out, and we really hate to disappoint when we reach capacity.

Coming up this month on Sunday 14 December we have Fröhschoppen with all the usual from the Ladies Group, as well as our Choir Christmas Concert from 2:30 pm.

This year the Choir have graciously waived the cover charge for members, but please ensure you register your attendance beforehand to reserve your spot. Please refer to the flyer on page 12 of this newsletter for details.

Club Manager's Report

The Club will be closing for Christmas after lunch service on Wednesday 24 Dec, and reopening on Saturday 27 Dec for standard lunch service, then express game day dinner service (there is a BBL cricket match on at the Gabba), and Knuckle Sunday on 28 Dec. We're then closed and reopening for lunch on Friday 09 January 2026.

And in news hot off the press from yesterday's AGM, I would like to congratulate Chris Fletcher, Vice President, and Reimer Moeller, Treasurer, who were both elected unopposed. As well as directors Kathy Carseldine, Michelle Hughes, and Markus Stepin who were elected as Directors.

Past director Alex (Lex) Hyde decided to withdraw his nomination for re-election.

On behalf of the board and the Club, thank you Lex, for your four years of dedicated service as director to the Club's board. You were part of a transformational time for the Club in terms of governance and management, as well as rolling up your sleeves plenty to help out as required on countless occasions. The world-class beer reticulation system that keeps our cold beer flowing perhaps one of the most notable and noticeable legacies you helped bring to fruition, and I won't mention the great keg-tapping incident of Oktoberfest 2024 (the content we captured will be used for a decade at least I suggest!)

On a personal level, Lex was also a huge help to me when I commenced in this role as his guidance certainly assisted me in hitting the ground running. I hope to see you and your family at the Club plenty in the days ahead, enjoying the great Club that you have helped nurture and guide.

Again, thank you, Lex.

If I don't see you around the club over the next few weeks, I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas, and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Warmest regards,

Trent Boyle
Club Manager
clubmanager@brisbanegermanclub.com

What's On: December

Wednesdays

Think Trivia!

*Registrations at
6:30 pm for
a 7:00 pm start.*



4th - 8th Dec

*The Ashes
Cricket
the Gabba*



11th Dec

*German Movie Night by
German Kino Brisbane*

- *Home Alone 2
(english subtitles
available)*
- *Single Bells
Book [here](#).*

**Fröhliche
Weihnachten
!!!**

14th Dec

*Members
Christmas Party*

(only for Full Members)

14th Dec

*Frühschoppen and
Choir Concert*

*(book free tickets
[here](#))*

28th Dec

*\$28 Pork Knuckle
Sunday*

*Bookings essential
book [here](#)*

closing times

*The Club will be closed
25/12 + 26/12 and from
29/12 until 08/01/2026.*

*Re-open on the 09/01 at
11am for lunch!*

What's On: January

closing times

*Re-open on the 09/01 at
11am for lunch!*

11th Jan

*Frühschoppen
from 11:00 am*

*Raffle prizes, & live
entertainment*



Live Music

*Live entertainment
every Friday and
Saturday night from
6:30 pm in our
Beer Hall!*

Fröhliches neues Jahr 2026!

25th Jan

*\$28 Pork Knuckle
Sunday*

*Bookings essential
[book here](#)*



Wednesdays

Think Trivia!

*Registrations at
6:30 pm for a
7:00 pm start.*

26th Jan

Public Holiday

Club will be closed.

Ladies' Group & Kaffee Klatsch Report

Greeting members!

Another year is nearly over, with shops all decorated and carols playing in readiness for Christmas.

Before I get too far ahead in the year, I would like to reflect back on the past couple of months, especially October. What a great time was had by all who attended our club for the Oktoberfest celebrations over the 4 weekends. The Ladies group were very fortunate to have Eva Air make a generous donation of a return economy airfare for 2 people to London, Munich, Vienna, Paris and Milan. How it worked; for every \$10.00 spent in our 5 litre Früh Kölsch Keg raffle you would gain an entry into the Eva Air competition. The Ladies Group thank everyone who supported our 54 raffles to help us raise almost \$8,000.00. October 2025 was certainly a very busy but great month.

November was a little quieter. We held our normal Frühschoppen on the 2nd Sunday and hosted another Life Members morning tea on the 18th. It is pleasing to see the life members embracing these morning teas. This is something the Ladies Group may consider making a regular function in 2026. Keep watch for further information. Thank you Ebony for your assistance with these mornings.

At the time of writing this report the Ladies group are preparing/organising the annual Children's Christmas Party. Thank you Ebony, Trent, Paula, Karen, and Andrew, for giving of your time to assist with bringing joy to the children of our club. Also, GREAT NEWS, I sent Santa a message and he said he would try and call in to see all the good girls and boys on this day.

The 30th November is the members AGM. On behalf of the Ladies Group, I would like to thank Trent and his team and the board members for their support to the Ladies Group. I wish all members up for election good luck!

For more information or to get in touch with the Ladies Group, please contact:

Kathy's Mobile: 0419 779 110
Email: aca56177@bigpond.net.au

Ladies' Group & Kaffee Klatsch Report

Please make a note on your calendar, 14th December is the last Frühschoppen for 2025. There will be lots of Christmas goodies to win from the raffle. We will be doing the member draw and raffle at 1pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

After Frühschoppen on this day, please stay on as the choir will be presenting their Christmas Concert commencing at 2.30. This event is free but you must register online.

Thursday 18th December will be our Kaffee Klatsch/Ladies Group Christmas Party as well as a couple of special birthday celebrations.

On behalf of the Ladies Group, thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to doing it all over again in 2026.

Wishing you and your families a very happy and blessed Christmas. Keep safe and we look forward to meeting with you in the New Year.

Until then,

Cheers

Kathy Carseldine

President - Ladies Group

For more information or to get in touch with the Ladies Group, please contact:

Kathy's Mobile: 0419 779 110
Email: aca56177@bigpond.net.au

Liedertafel & Liederkrantz Report

Hello Everyone!

Our Christmas Concert on Sunday, 14 December 2025 at 2.30pm right after the Club's Frühschoppen has officially ended, there will be a joyful presentation of traditional festive carols.

Bookings to the Concert can be made via the Club's Website or call them on 3391 2434.

Below is a short History of the Poem "Stille Nacht" and how it came about to become a popular Christmas Song.



History of Stille Nacht

The poem was originally written in 1816 by a young Catholic priest Father Joseph Mohr, in the village of Oberndorf in the Austrian Empire. In 1818 Mohr took the words to organist Franz Xaver Gruber and asked him to compose a lullaby melody and guitar accompaniment for that night's mass. It seems that the river flooding had possibly damaged the church organ. The church was eventually destroyed by repeated flooding and replaced with the Silent-Night-Chapel. The new carol was in the repertoire of travelling families of folk singers, the Strassers and the Rainers, eventually for an audience that included Franz I of Austria and Alexander I of Russia.

New singers for 2026 are most welcome, please contact the German Club on 3391 2434 or the Choir Secretary Monika on 0421 631 914 for details.

Liedertafel & Liederkrantz



2025 Christmas Concert

by The Brisbane German Choir
Liedertafel/Liederkrantz

Under the musical direction of Rainer Klose
with piano accompaniment from Olga Lipsky

Sunday 14th December, 2:30pm
The Brisbane German Club
416 Vulture Street, Kangaroo Point

This is a FREE event for all Members, Guests, Family and Friends!

Scan the code to reserve your tickets
or phone 3391 2434 for assistance.



Alpenrosen Report

Hello all,

The Oktoberfest season September/October has been and gone in a flash – from Biergartens to Eat Street Northside to school events and performing at each of the Brisbane German Club Oktoberfest weekends.

It was great to see familiar faces of friends and meet new acquaintances. Our performances were very well received and we appreciated the support of our audiences and the Club administration. Many thanks to Trent and Ebony for logistical and technical support. The new PA system and deck was great!!

We welcomed our joining latest dancer, Stella, to the floor this year. She certainly was a crowd pleaser – joining with Killian for cute factor!!



Alpenrosen Report



Alpenrosen Report

We would also like to thank our own support crew – the partners, the children, the friends, the drivers who accompany us to the many performances and give up their weekends to assist.

We gained some interest from potential new dancers – we shall return in early February if anyone would like to join us on a Tuesday night.

Maddy has flown the coop for a white, snowy German adventure ... the rest of the crew gathered to celebrate our annual 'we survived' Christmas gathering. Thank you to our hosts, the Langers.



As the year rounds off, The Alpenrosen are reflecting on our many adventures – Cairns Dancefest in particular – and are gathering our steam for an exciting 2026.

Frohe Weihnachten!
Alles Gute im neuen Jahr!

Paula Hay



Skat Report

Hello Skat Friends

We didn't play Skat in October; the Oktoberfest was taking place.

At our November Skat Competition, there were 13 Players present.

The first Prize went to S. Svarbic with 2843 Points,

2. A. Doehler 2360 Points,

3. W. Simke 2296 Points,

4. W. Bummer 2249 Points.

We play Prize Skat every second Sunday of the Month, start time 11.00am.

Every second Wednesday we play Friendly Skat, start time 12.00pm.

Gut Blatt,

Werner Simke



**Skat is Germany's
National Cards Game**

Children's Christmas Party

They say it takes a village ... and a village gathered to celebrate the children's Christmas party at the Club.

Led by the President of the Ladies Group, Kathy rallied the elves and coordinated a splendid event. Face painting by Frankie, balloon folding with Elf Andrew and Rubens, cookie and gingerbread food crafting with Paula and Karin and carolling with Andrew, Paula and Beatrice. Helpful organising hands were provided by Familie Hammermeister. Greatly appreciated!!



Games and craft and balloon play abounded. Thank you to the kitchen for a yummy lunch ... and the highlight was our special guest, Santa!!

Danke vielmals – thank you – for the compliments and expressions of appreciation given to the organisers – it valued the day! We appreciated the parents who participated!

It was a pleasure to welcome so many families to the Club for this joyous occasion.



Children's Christmas Party



Frohes Fest!!
Paula, for the elves!!



Photo Gallery

Oktoberfest



Photo Gallery

Oktoberfest



NOTICE BOARD

extract tz München 06/10/2025

tz Montag, 6. Oktober 2025

MÜNCHEN + REGION 7

+ Australier feiern ihr eigenes Oktoberfest – und schenken Münchner Bier aus +



Die Fest-Macher Joseph Barth und Trent Boyle.

Hier geht die Party weiter

Dann, wenn unsere Wiesn in München vorbeist, legen sie bei einem anderen „Oktoberfest“ erst so richtig los. Am anderen Ende der Welt – und viel besser organisiert als so manch anderes Wiesn-Pendant, das andernorts gefeiert wird. Die Rede ist von Brisbane in Australien. Tatsache: Hier wird echtes Münchner Bier ausgeschenkt.

Nicht etwa aus der Flasche, sondern frisch vom Fass. Beim 51. „Oktoberfest“, zu dem der German Club seit 3. Oktober einlädt, gibt es Helles von den sechs großen Brauereien der Landeshauptstadt. Gefeierte wird jetzt an vier Wochenenden mit mehr als 7000 Wiesn-Fans. Möglich macht das Josef Barth, der zwar schon lang nicht mehr in München lebt, das Lebensgefühl aber mit nach Down

› Die
Australier
lieben Feste
und trinken
gern Bier ‹

SEPP BARTH

Under gebracht hat. Und so kann's jedes Jahr 16 000 Kilometer von der Isarmetropole entfernt rundgehen. In einem extra hergerichteten Saal, mit Masskrügen und Dirndl, die sich sehen lassen können. „Die Australier lieben Feste und trinken gern Bier. Daher passt das Oktoberfest perfekt zu ihnen“, erklärt Sepp Barth, der seit 20 Jahren in Australien lebt. „Ich habe hier eine Marktlücke für deutsche Biere entdeckt“, verrät der 63-Jährige. Heute arbeitet der Münchner mit einem lokalen Importeur und einem Großhändler zusammen.

Die Planungen für die Brisbane-Wiesn hat er zusammen mit Trent Boyle, dem Chefdes deutschen Clubs, bereits im Vorjahr gestartet. „Die Bierbestellungen müssen etwa im Februar festste-

hen.“ Grundsätzlich gilt: je früher, umso besser! Am Ende wurde ein ganzer Container mit 240 Bierfässern nach Brisbane geordert, damit das Helles der sechs großen Brauereien frisch gezapft werden kann. Außerdem hat Barth fünf weitere Container voll mit Münchner Bieren für die anderen Oktoberfeste geordert, die außerdem in Australien in diesen Tagen stattfinden. Ein großes Zelt mit Platz für 10 000 Gäste tourt die Küste entlang. Diese Party sei aber eher für ihre langen Warteschlangen und schlechten Wiesn-Verkleidungen bekannt.

Beim German Club in Brisbane geht es eher gemütlich, dafür authentischer zu. 1000 Oktoberfest-Fans haben im Festsaal Platz, gefeiert wird schon seit Jahrzehnten. Zum Verein gehören sogar Schuhplattl-Gruppen, ein Liederkranz, man bietet traditionelle Speisen an – und es wird ein Trachten-Pop-up-Store



ingerichtet. „Das alles bildet die Kulisse für ein ganz besonderes Fest“, sagt Vereinschef Boyle und strahlt vor Freude.

Während der Brisbane-Wiesn werden circa 15 000 Liter Bier ausgeschenkt, außerdem rund 28 000 Flaschen Bier verkauft. Dazu gehen et-

Okay, die Logos auf den Masskrügen weichen vom Original ab. Aber drin ist echtes Münchner Bier: Alles ist bereit fürs Aussie-Oktoberfest. F: GERMAN CLUB, BARTH

wa 1900 Schnitzel über den Tresen. Insgesamt sind 130 Biersorten (darunter auch Weißbier und sogar Kölsch) im Angebot. Für eine Mass zählt der Australier umgerechnet zwischen 13 und 22 Euro. Viel Aufwand für ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit am anderen Ende der Welt.

NADJA HOFFMANN

Election results from the AGM

Vice President: Chris Fletcher

Treasurer: Reimer Moeller

Directors: Kathy Carseldine, Michelle Hughes, Markus Stepin.

President, Michaela Sowden,

and Directors Nick Sowden, Paula Hay, and Robert Hughes

are serving a continuation of their two-year term until 2026.



**Brisbane Deutscher Turn-Verein
The Brisbane German Club**

416 Vulture St, Kangaroo Point QLD 4169

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Email: admin@brisbanegermanclub.com

www.brisbanegermanclub.com

December 2025 - January 2026