



# CONCORDIA CLUB

German Club (Founded 1883)



Wartburg Castle, Eisenach

Photo Dagmar Deussing

## Concordia Newsletter | 2021, Issue 1

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Fellow Members,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have send condolences following the passing of our Club President Karl-Heinz Fusting. We are thankful for the kind words and for all the memories you have shared with us. We truly appreciate each and every member's support.

The committee would like to express special gratitude to Teresa Sonntag, who has kindly agreed to continue to devote her time and energy to the Concordia Club.

In accordance with Club regulations, the committee has appointed Teresa to serve as Club President until an ordinary election will be held at the next Annual General Meeting later in the year. As many of you have noted, Teresa is the first female President in the Club's 138-year history. She has served as Vice President alongside Karl for the past 8 years. We are very confident that the Concordia Club has a bright future ahead with Teresa at the helm.

Karl said in our first committee meeting, when he welcomed the new Directors after the 2020 AGM: "Great things are never done by one person. They are achieved by a team."

All Directors feel that we are a great team and that we can continue to build a great Club for the members because of the support we receive from all of you in the Concordia community.

Dankeschön!

### **The Board of Directors**

Teresa Sonntag, Günter Schramm, Franz Bouvier, John Duckworth, Ben Zerbes, Claudia, Genuttis, Martin Stephan & Dagmar Deussing

Our local member Jo Haylen has given a speech in Parliament to farewell Karl-Heinz Füsting. She has posted it on her Facebook page: [bit.ly/valekarl](https://bit.ly/valekarl)

Jo Haylen has also published the tribute to Karl on her website: [bit.ly/valekarl2](https://bit.ly/valekarl2)

Our committee member Claudia talked to Wolfgang Müller of SBS German Radio about the passing of Karl and the future of the Concordia Club at: [bit.ly/valekarl3](https://bit.ly/valekarl3)

## 138th Anniversary Celebration

We will be celebrating on  
**Saturday 29 May 2021 from 6 pm**

Admission to the Ball is by ticket **only**

**Includes:** 3 course dinner and a glass of sparkling wine on arrival

**Dress Code:** Semi formal

Bookings essential, contact

Teresa on **0434 941 778**



# Nachruf

GÜNTER SCHRAMM

Die Mitglieder des Concordia Club trauern um ihren Präsidenten Karl-Heinz Willi Bernhard Füsting, der am 10. Februar im Alter von 81 Jahren verstarb. Mit ihm verliert der Verein einen Mann, der den Verein in den letzten Jahren maßgeblich geprägt und gestaltet hat.

Karl wurde am 13. Juni 1939 in Loitz in Mecklenburg-Westpommern, geboren. Als Kind seiner Zeit wuchs er während der schwierigen Jahre des zweiten Weltkrieges auf.

Als junger Mann absolvierte Karl seinen Grundwehrdienst in der Nationalen Volksarmee in der damaligen DDR. Bald nach seiner Entlassung in das zivile Leben nutzte der freiheitsliebende Karl das Motorrad seines Großvaters um Heimat, Familie und Freunde zu verlassen. Durch das damals gefährliche Niemandsland floh Karl nach Westdeutschland.

Nach seiner Ankunft in der Freiheit vollendete Karl das in Magdeburg begonnene Studium als Maschinenbauingenieur an der Universität Stuttgart.

1967, im Alter von 28 Jahren, traf Karl die schwerwiegende Entscheidung allein nach Australien auszuwandern. Auf der „SS Galileo Galilei“ hatte er 6 Wochen Zeit über das Leben nachzudenken. Wie viele seiner Landsleute landete er in Sydney, ohne große finanzielle Mittel und ohne Kenntnisse der englischen Sprache. Jedoch gelang es Karl, auch Dank seiner treuen blauen Augen, eine italienische Familie dahingehend zu bezaubern, dass diese ihn zunächst aufnahm und ihm half, bei seinen ersten Gehversuchen im neuen Land erfolgreich zu sein.

Bald darauf, bei einer Sydney Hafenrundfahrt an einem sonnigen Herbsttag, schlug das Schicksal zu. Karl lernte Marja kennen. Es mangelte nicht an Zuneigung und 1972 wurde geheiratet. Ihre beiden Töchter Ingrid und Natalie und die Enkelkinder sind Zeugen ihres Familienglücks.

Im Berufsleben bewies Karl Fleiß, Unternehmensgeist und mechanische Fähigkeiten. Bei der Firma Rentokil stieg er zum Produktionsmanager und Fuhrparkmanager auf.

Karl hatte eine ganz besondere, jahrzehntelange Beziehung zum Concordia Club und zu der deutsch sprechenden Gemeinschaft in Sydney. Schon im Klub in Stanmore war Karl zeitweise ein wichtiges Direktionsmitglied. Er war einflussreich bei der Umsiedlung des Klubs von Stanmore nach Tempe.

Die Erfolge seiner Arbeit beeindruckten und im Jahr 2008 wurde er als Nachfolger von Reimer Schmidt zum Präsidenten des Concordia Clubs gewählt. Sein geschicktes Management und unermüdlicher Einsatz für den Verein zeichneten Karl aus. Aus Wenigem schuf Karl, auch mit Hilfe von Teresa Sonntag, einen erfolgreichen Verein.

Der wirtschaftliche Aufschwung Concordia's, nach guter Vorarbeit seines Vorgängers, ist zum großen Teil Karl zu verdanken. Er hatte ein besonderes Geschick, bei politischer Prominenz für Concordia zu werben und wurde selber prominent, wenn er im Klub von Tisch zu Tisch ging und für jeden ein gutes Wort fand.

Eine seiner wichtigsten Maßnahmen und Herzensangelegenheiten war es, die Spielautomaten aus dem Klub zu entfernen, im Bemühen, Concordia zu einem familienfreundlichen Klub umzuwandeln.

Es wird schwer sein, sein Werk fortzusetzen und noch schwerer, es zu vollenden.

Lieber Karl, wir alle vermissen Dich sehr und werden dir für alle Zeit ein ehrendes Andenken bewahren.

Der Familie Füsting sprechen wir unser tief empfundenes Mitgefühl aus.

**Im Namen aller Mitglieder  
Der Vorstand des Concordia Club**



Karl-Heinz Willi Bernhard Füsting  
\* 1939 † 2021

# Obituary

GÜNTER SCHRAMM

The members of the Concordia Club mourn the death of their president Karl-Heinz Willi Bernhard Füsting, who died on February 10 at the age of 81. The club lost a man who has significantly influenced and shaped the club in recent years.

Karl was born on 13 June 1939 in Loitz, Germany and grew up during the difficult years of World War II.

As a young man, Karl completed his military service in the National People's Army in what was then East Germany.

Soon after his discharge into civilian life, freedom-loving Karl used his grandfather's motorcycle to leave his home, his family and his friends. Through what was then dangerous no man's land, Karl fled to West Germany where he completed the mechanical engineering studies at the University of Stuttgart.

In 1967, at the age of 28, Karl made the decision to emigrate alone to Australia. On the "SS Galileo Galilei" he had 6 weeks to think about life.

Like many of his compatriots, he landed in Sydney without much financial means and without knowledge of the English language. However, thanks to his faithful blue eyes, Karl managed to charm an Italian family into taking him in and helping him to succeed in his first steps in the new country.

Soon after, on a Sydney harbour cruise on a sunny autumn day, fate struck. Karl met Marja, they fell in love and were married in 1972. Their two daughters Ingrid and Natalie and the grandchildren completed their family happiness.

In his professional life, Karl demonstrated diligence, entrepreneurial spirit and mechanical skills. At Rentokil, he rose to the positions of production manager and fleet manager.

Karl had a very special, decades-long relationship with the Concordia Club and the German-speaking community in Sydney.

Already at the club in Stanmore, Karl was a key board member. He was very influential in the relocation of the club from Stanmore to Tempe.

The success of his work impressed and in 2008 he was elected to succeed Reimer Schmidt as President of the Concordia Club. His skilful management and tireless dedication to the club set Karl apart. With the help of Teresa Sonntag, Karl created a successful club.

Concordia's economic upswing, after good preparatory work by his predecessor, was largely owed to Karl. He had a special knack for promoting Concordia among local influential people and became prominent himself when he walked from table to table at the club to have a chat with everyone.

One of his most important actions and matters of the heart was to remove the poker machines from the club in an effort to transform Concordia into a family friendly club.

It will be hard to continue his work and even harder to complete it.

Dear Karl, we all miss you very much and will cherish your memory.

To the Füsting family we extend our deepest sympathy.

**On behalf of all members  
The board of the Concordia Club**



Karl-Heinz Willi Bernhard Füsting  
\* 1939 † 2021

# Join the Concordia Choir

MESSAGE FROM MAVIS GLAESEL, CHOIR SECRETARY

The Concordia Choir is filled with happy people because they sing. Singing is sooo good for you!

We sing German folk songs mostly but also Mozart, Bach and Beethoven. Our standard performances are at the Anniversary night of our Club and at Christmas. We also sing at other choirs' concerts as they arise through the year.

We are a four part choir so men and women are very welcome. Rehearsals are on a Wednesday night beginning with a cup of tea and a chat.

The club is not open on Wednesdays but the president and directors very kindly allow us to rehearse there as we are an undergroup of the club. To be a member of the choir you must also be or become a member of the club.

Dr Tamara Carlin is our musical director who is very talented but also a fun person to work with.

- Release your tensions
- Banish your stress
- Practice your German
- SING SING SING!

Rehearsals are on a

**Wednesday night at 7.30 pm**

Cost is **\$5.00 per week** and **\$30.00 per year.**

For further information ring Mavis  
**0408286956**





## Bar & Restaurant

### OPENING HOURS

#### Bar

Friday	12 pm to close
Saturday	12 pm to close
Sunday	11 am to close

#### Restaurant

Friday	12 pm to 8.30 pm
Saturday	12 pm to 8.30 pm
Sunday	12 pm to 8.00 pm

**The Club will be closed for the Easter long weekend and ANZAC Day**

For reservations call Ana **0450 036 930**

**We hope to restart Frühshoppen on the 18th April depending on COVID restrictions**

### *Concordia Club Ltd*

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