



THE

# DANISH • SOCIETY NEWS

## Glædelig jul og godt nytår!

Dear all, and welcome to the December president's report.

Firstly, I would like to extend my gratitude to those of you who came and helped at our Scandinavian Christmas Market. We simply couldn't have made it as great a success as it was without you.

Having said that, I am also slightly disappointed that it took 3 emails and 2 Facebook posts to get the volunteers needed. Getting volunteers is becoming more challenging. Please note that this event generates a turnover of almost \$10,000, so, I urge you to come forward next year, as the committee cannot continue working the long hours we do.



2023 has been a great year after the past couple of years being heavily impacted by COVID. We have seen some record numbers at our smørrebrød parties, which have been fantastic. The latest one was our Christmas party in November that saw 95 guests.

Our last event for the year is our Children's Christmas party, but the numbers aren't looking that great. If you have younger kids, please book as soon as possible.

That will be all for now, so the only thing left for me is to wish you all a very glædelig jul og godt nytår, and I am looking forward to seeing you all in the new year at the club.

*Festive greetings, Jacob*

### Fastelavnstest - "slå katten af tønden"

Sunday 18th February, 2024 - 11am onwards, Danish House, Penrose



Dress up parade, hit the cat out of the barrel, lots of fun games and prizes. Bring your own picnic lunch. Complimentary coffee and tea will be available. All welcome, no charge.

\*Adults invited to dress up too!

Please RSVP by 12 February.

Contact [events@danishsociety.org.nz](mailto:events@danishsociety.org.nz)



## Smørrebrødsfest

On Saturday 18 November, 90 members and guests gathered for our annual 'Jule Smørrebrødsfest' at the Danish House.

A festive and fun evening with beautiful smørrebrød was enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who helped.

*Annette Jorna*





## Julegudstjeneste 2023 - Danish Christmas Service 2023

Singing Danish Christmas songs, is for me always a wonderful reminder of the special times of Christmas, in particular Juleaften, as a child in Denmark. Nothing compares to a Danish Christmas eve, dancing around the newly and beautifully decorated Christmas tree, singing Christmas songs, in the light of the candles on the tree. Each of us have our own memories and that is what happens when I sing, ”Kimmer I klokke,” ” Et barn er født I Bethelem,” ” Julen har bragt velsignet bud”

This year, though the gathered group was small the singing was brilliant, because we had a lovely pianist and the Pastor Hans Krab Koed, bought his own deacon who could sing.

It was a lovely service, followed by Kaffebord where freshly made æbleskiver with jam was served. That stimulated the conversations, and everyone went home feeling most satisfied.

Next year, you should try coming to the Danish language Christmas service. The Pastor's talk is always translated for those who cannot understand Danish. It is truly a heartwarming cultural experience.

*Karen Andersen Yates*



### No Open House

No open house until February

### Welcome new members!

A warm welcome to our newest members:

Lizbeth & Bill McCook

### Calling All Enthusiastic Danish Readers

Are you willing to join a small group looking after the Danish Society's library?

If you are, why not email  
secretary@danishsociety.org.nz

*Pam Logan, Secretary*

### Quick Check Calendar

#### JANUARY

No events

#### FEBRUARY

**Sun 11th** – Open House, 2-4pm

**Sun 18th** – Fastelavnsfest at Danish House, 11am

“Glædelig Jul og Godt Nytår”

From the Events Team.

### No Movie Nights before March

There will be no movie nights in December, January and February.



## The Scandinavian Christmas Market 2023

After a winter and spring of record wet weather, the sun shone spectacularly and the crowds turned up for the annual Scandinavian Christmas Market, on Sunday 5th November. The Twilight Market, the evening prior was well attended as usual and everyone enjoyed glogg and aeblerkiver. With 10 new stall holders joining us this year, along with many of our regulars, there was a great selection on offer. Missing this year was Swenz, who have been a favourite stall holder for many years, travelling up from Wellington with children in tow, to take part in the market. Their children have now grown up and are living overseas, so Eva and Sven have decided to close the business and return to Sweden to live. We are very sorry to lose them and their vast selection of imported Scandi products. Their presence at our market over the years has surely been instrumental in elevating us to our current popularity as a destination Christmas Market.

A big attraction this year though, was The Norsemen, who came 2 years ago. This year they came not only with their crafts and costumes, but with armoury and weapons....prepared to showcase their fighting skills, which all took place around the back of the Danish House on the lawn. This area has been so underutilised and I have been wondering for several years now, how we can incorporate this area into the market. This year The Norsemen certainly did that and with the help of our MC extraordinaire, Jay Jay, announcing the session times and rallying spectators around to the back of the building, (health and safety being addressed), serious fighting pursued.. Even though

shields and armour were worn, the weapons were real and the fighting enactment looked and sounded pretty authentic and scary.....much to the delight of the spectators. Kids and adults alike also got the opportunity to be involved and take on the Vikings. Our back garden has now come into its own as the perfect Viking battle ground.....how cool is that?

On a gentler note, our member Robynne Andersen, again created a wonderful display on the stage featuring HC Andersen sitting writing at his desk. The stage has become a favourite spot for having or taking photos, especially of children in front of our Christmas tree. These photos, no doubt, get shared all over the world to friends and family. It was a delight to see children enjoying being read to, while sitting on the edge of the stage, in front of HC Andersen and the Christmas tree, amidst the hustle and bustle of the market.

A big shout out and thankyou to Jay Jay Feeney who has so enthusiastically embraced our market and promotes it on her radio program on More FM during the week prior and takes on the role of MC on the day. She has taken the market to a new level of fun and entertainment. Last but not least, a big big thankyou to you..... all our wonderful members who volunteer in so many ways, big and small, to enable us to host this annual market which not only brings in a significant income, but also continues to promote The Danish Society to the wider community in Auckland and beyond.

*Kirsten Jensen*



# The Scandinavian Christmas Market 2023





## INFO

### The Danish Society Inc.

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Facebook/danishsocietynz/

Bank a/c: ASB 12-3036-0671539-00

### Subscription (2023/24 financial year)

Youth Club (0-17)..... Gratis  
Student Member (18-24).....\$10/pp  
Full Member (25-64).....\$65/pp  
Senior Member (65-89) .....\$55/pp  
Senior+ Member (90+) .....Gratis  
Family Discount (off total)....\$30/pc

Financial year runs from 01/10/  
2023 to 30/09/2024

### Contribute to our magazine

The next magazine deadline is January. The magazine can also be read (in full colour) online at [www.danishsociety.org.nz](http://www.danishsociety.org.nz)  
Mail: [editor@danishsociety.org.nz](mailto:editor@danishsociety.org.nz)  
Articles can be either in Danish or English.

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## CONTACTS

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1 Harris Road, Mt Wellington  
PO Box 85-014  
09 579 4490

#### Danish Lutheran Church of NZ:

[dkchurchsubs@gmail.com](mailto:dkchurchsubs@gmail.com)

### Danish lessons

If you are interested in learning Danish, (beginner and intermediate levels) then this is for you.

Contact by email  
[danishlessons@danishsociety.org.nz](mailto:danishlessons@danishsociety.org.nz)