



THE DANISH • SOCIETY NEWS

Hej allesammen

Just a quick word from me this month – our committee and volunteers are already hard at work preparing for what will (hopefully!) be a stellar year for the club. I'm really looking forward to working with you all to make sure the club is providing opportunities and events for all our members.

First off, I'd like to encourage you all to come to our first Sunday Lunch which will be replacing the old 'Open Houses' on the first Sunday every month starting on March 4th from 12pm. The club will provide rugbrød and condiments, so we ask everyone to bring their favourite pålæg (toppings), and to come and hygge with your fellow members. We have so many great chefs and bakers in the club, it's about time we get to eat more of their yummy offerings on a regular basis! Bring your friends, bring your family – this will hopefully become a great tradition for the club.

Remember we also have Fastelavn coming up on February 11th at 11 o'clock at Long Bay Beach site 6. Now, every year I find myself trying to encourage younger members and older members (or members whose kids have flown the coop, or nearly flown the coop) to come along to Fastelavn. "Oh no, it's just for kids" they say... WELL... it's not. It's actually a really nice day for members of ALL ages to come together and enjoy the sun – you can partake in the games, or just relax and watch the goings on while you enjoy a glass of whatever's in your cooler! Long Bay can be a really busy beach, and we've secured you a prime spot in a site all to ourselves, so keep an eye out for Dannebrog and you'll easily find your way.

Lastly, please keep an eye on the upcoming events going on and (if you are able to) please put your hand up and HELP. We have a good 300 or so adult members and if all of you put in just one hour of time a year (not even a week, or month – though that would be nice too!) to volunteering with the club you would save a lot of our core volunteers from burn out. The majority of our committee and event volunteers are all in full-time employment (not retired), have families and lead very busy lives. They love the club, but when it's 3am and there's just a small group left tidying up a party it can be quite disheartening and off-putting for new volunteers. Volunteering should never be too hard, we're a big team after all!

So here are a few small things you can do without any commitment at all on your part: 1) put your chair away 2) give all your glasses to the bar and your dishes to the kitchen (hey – while you're in there, why not load the dishwasher?!) 3) grab a tea towel and pitch in (the kitchen is not a female dominated zone) 4) if you see rubbish outside or in the parking lot – be a tidy Diwi (Dane/Kiwi) and pick it up, 5) if you notice something is missing or broken – tell someone!

It really is the little things that count and a little bit of help by a lot of people goes a long way – as they say in Danish mange bække små.

I hope the year is off to cracking start for you all and I'll look forward to having a chat with you all at Fastelavn!

Med venlig hilsen
Anna



NOTICE BOARD

DENMARK CLOSES THE OFFICE OF THE TRADE COUNCIL

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that the office of The Trade Council of Denmark in Auckland will close by the end of 2017. The Danish Embassy in Canberra and the Consulate-General in Sydney will handle future trade cooperation between New Zealand and Denmark.

Ambassador Tom Nørring and Consul General/Trade Commissioner Michael T. Hansen want to thank Trade Advisor Sarah Lund for her time in promoting Danish businesses in New Zealand.

LOOKING FOR A VENUE?

Did you know that you can hire Danish House in Penrose?

Member rates for hiring the hall for the whole day:

Sunday to Friday..... \$120

Saturday.....\$180

Half day hire is 1/3 less

No charge for funerals.

Member rates for hiring library \$55

Bond is \$150 per booking.

Brian Kamper Nielsen is now looking after the house. For bookings please email house@danishsociety.org.nz or call Brian on 021 620 918.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thank you to all who have paid their subscription renewal promptly. The Membership Subscription year runs from 01/10/2017 to 30/09/2018. If you are unsure whether you have paid already, you can check the address label on the envelope containing your posted Magazine. If the address label has an asterisk (*) then it means we haven't received or recorded your payment. Any queries, please email membership@danishsociety.org.nz

THANK YOU

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the Danish Society for the lovely bouquet of flowers which I received on my 80 birthday. They kept fresh for a long time, and was very much appreciated.

Kind regards
Fanny Wright.

NEW WEBSITE FOR THE DANISH SOCIETY

The website for The Danish Society is overdue for an update.

If you have the skills and interest in helping us with designing our new website, please get in contact with Brian on email vicepresident@danishsociety.org.nz

SCANDINAVIAN BUSINESS EVENT

The Swedish association in Auckland organises several annual events to enable continuation of Swedish traditions and culture as well as an opportunity to meet other fellow Swedes.

Several of our members have their own businesses and that has given us the idea that it would be great to be able to organise a Scandinavian business event in Auckland for small businesses. The business owners would have the opportunity to display information about their business, sell products and there could be opportunities to do a presentation in front of all visitors.

Before we organise this however, we need to know if there is any interest from Scandinavian business owners to participate. The event would take place in Auckland, location not yet decided, most likely in April or May 2018. It would cost \$50 to participate and the following would be included: Table for products, rental of venue and cleaning, marketing and coffee/cake for the visitors.

If you are interested in participating, please email info@svenskaforeningen.org.nz. This is just an email to check if there is enough participants interested to be able to organise the event, more information will come later if we are able to go forward with the event.



75 years of the Danish Society in Auckland

75 years of Danish Society, so rich in archival documents right from the beginning.

I found it a very interesting task to put together a simple in December.

It all started with the establishment of the Danish Association on the 2nd February 1942. Danes in New Zealand and in Auckland wanted to help their countrymen in Denmark and support every effort to free Denmark from occupation.

With branches in Auckland, Palmerston North and Wellington, the Danish Association collected enough funds to be able to donate an ambulance to the Royal NZ Air Force. There are photos from the 10th of October 1943, when the ambulance is handed over, by the steps of Parliament. The ambulance proudly bore a Danish flag as well as a NZ flag.

This was just the very beginning. There is much more to know, but don't take my word for it. Look up the documents yourself.

Kurt Maquart, our very able webmaster, has downloaded much of the original material on the Danish Society website: www.danishsoiety.org.nz. Point to the heading ABOUT and scroll down to History.

You may even find out about the big conflict that nearly broke up the Association just as it was getting off the ground.

I love the true story about the Danish Sewing Circle. Initiated by Mrs Ingeborg Langkilde, the wife of the President, Mr Christoffer Langkilde, she gathered Danish and New Zealand women, to make clothing for Danish men, women and children. Several tons of clothing was sent to Denmark and distributed by welfare organisations.

A newspaper article in the old Album, lovingly

prepared by Mrs Hadrup, cut out a newspaper article about the clothes arriving in Denmark. It talks of the delight of people that received the clothing. They loved the soft wool and did not mind the fact that the clothes smelt of mothballs. It was clothing, new to them, as during the war, new clothes were in very short supply. The Danish Sewing Circle was a very successful group that provided much needed support. Read the clipping yourself. It is dated 6th March 1946.

You can also look up a summary of The Danish Society in the History section: This is your Life Danish Society (1991), keep scrolling to the end to see photos of the ambulance and the first committee and more.

Our beginning was one of good Danish people coming together for a cause bigger than themselves, working together and achieving great things. Now that sounds like the Danish Society we know too.

This year, look out for more small articles of the earlier Danish Society.

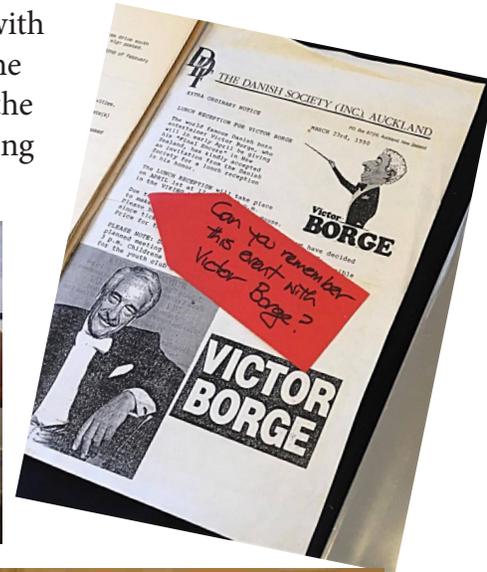
Karen Andersen Yates





CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Karen Andersen Yates had created an exhibition with memorabilia from Danish Society's 75 years in the lounge. Both the guests at the afternoon tea and the guests at the party in the evening enjoyed looking through the long ago and not so long ago past.



79 people had signed up for an evening in 1942. The windows had been covered up in the hall to resemble the blacked out homes of the war years.



The food was of course traditional Danish delicacies such as herring, stjerneskud, medister, frikadeller, leverpostej, sylte, æbleflæsk and the delicious Christmas



dessert risalamande. Everybody seemed to have a jolly time, and the prize for best dress-up went to Georgie and Niels Andersen for their 40s style gangster/spy/pilot outfit, complete with guns and bicycles! Thank you to all you smørrebrødsnisser - we could not have pulled it off without you!



The former and the present female presidents: Inger, Anna, Rita og Karen - Marion is missing.



EVENTS, EVENTS, EVENTS!

FASTELAVN

Sunday 11TH OF February at 11am

Long Bay Regional Park, site 6 – that's the first one on the left as you enter the park. The site will be open from 9am so there's time to get dressed up, set up your picnic spot and/or go for a swim before the official programme starts at 11am. (High tide is at 5am and again just after 5pm.)

9am: Picnic site opens.

11am: Dress up parade (lots of prizes), immediately followed by

11:30am: Tøndeslagning – hitting the cat out of the barrel

12pm: Lunch and relaxing

1pm: Games and races!

(All times are approximate, as the programme may vary according to number of people attending, weather etc.)

We have the picnic site for the whole day, so you may want to stay for an evening picnic or nip up to Torbay for some takeaways. (There are no shops on site.)

In case of heavy rain we will go to Danish House instead. Please contact Sarah Lund if you're in doubt. Sarah's phone is 021 812 226

***Please note the new start time of 11am!**

A couple of advance notices to put in your diaries now:

Sunday 1 April (Easter Sunday), 2pm: Danish language Easter Service with Pastor Anja

Sunday 6 May, 2pm: Concert with Gemma Lee (piano) and Charlotte Francis (violin).

NEW FORMAT OPEN HOUSE: SHARED LUNCH

Sunday 4th of March From 12pm

The first Open House of the year will be on the first Sunday of March in the new guise of a shared lunch.

The "2pm afternoon tea Open House" has been running for over 20 years, and while attendance has been good when we've had a special draw card (concert or julehygge or similar), we have seen a drastic decline in attendance for the "ordinary" Open Houses. So rather than get rid of the "meet and greet" format we have just changed the time and food we eat! It is still going to be your chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones in an informal setting.

We would like to invite you to come and have lunch with us! The Club will provide the basics, i.e. bread and butter and various condiments (and Jacob has promised to bring leverpostej this time), but the general idea is that you bring your favourite topping to share with us. And it doesn't have to be traditional Danish! We very much hope to see some weird and wacky combos – how about marmite and leverpostej for instance!? Or avocado, mayo and ristede løg? Since this is a first, we're going to attempt to keep the price for the lunch low and stick with the \$2.50, IF you have brought a contribution. Otherwise it'll be \$5.00.

We will also have the first ballot Christmas 2018, New Year 2018 /19 and Auckland Anniversary weekend 2019 in Valhalla.

Feel free to contact Helle if you need further information: 09 478 7016 or email: gilderdale-clan@gmail.com (please note: this is a new mail address.)



Valhalla's 40th Anniversary by Anthony Barrett



Upwards of 70 people were in attendance for Valhalla's 40th Anniversary even though the weather was forecast for rain. Luckily it was mainly fine when it mattered.

The gathering was well represented by a cross section of all those who have contributed to the growth and success of our societies "Holiday Home". Of course there were many who were not there, having passed away or not being able to attend the day's celebrations.



We first assembled up in the patio area next to the house where we were entertained by Palle Olsen and Bjarne Elowson on Valhalla stories and its history. It was fitting that these two long standing members spoke since they have both been so instrumental in Valhalla's development over a large



portion of those 40 years. Our president Anna Gilderdale then spoke of Valhalla's importance to the Society and thanked everyone involved on behalf of the main committee.



A good number of us then walked over the road to the large Pohutakawa grove and watched as Bjarne unveiled the new macrocarpa remembrance seat. This area under the trees just up from the path is an especially meaningful and peaceful spot on the property. The seat will allow many members to sit and remember loved ones while enjoying the great views over the Cape Rodney area.



A fabulous lunch supplied by the Valhalla committee was then served back at the house.

It was a wonderful day and a great way to honour this special anniversary in Valhalla's history.





Valhalla News

After having considered the feedback we have received from all you Valhalla users concerning the cleaning and due to an increase in late cancellations, it has been decided to:

1. There will be a fixed weekly cleaning every Sunday. The cost of \$100 will be added to the rent of the house. The cleaner will clean everything - also items which have been excluded earlier.

If Valhalla is rented out during the week, its up to those members to clean Valhalla themselves or pay Hedda direct the \$70 as it stands now.

2. After February 2018 there will no longer be a deposit of \$100 when booking Valhalla, however there will be a cancellation fee if Valhalla can not be re-rented. The cancellation fee is \$300, and if it is less than 2 month before the booking the fee will be \$600.

There are two ballots for 2018/19. The first one will be drawn in March at the open house. It is for Christmas 2018, New Year 2018/19 and Auckland Anniversary weekend 2019. The second ballot will be drawn in July 18 for Easter 2019, Queens Birthday 2019 and Labour Day 2019.

Please remember that the person renting Valhalla is responsible for any breakage and we ask that you report it to the booking manager as soon as possible.

The first working bee this year is 14th-15th of April. So far the list of jobs are; maintenance of the tracks, an outdoor shower, lights in the kids' corner and pest control, as rats have been living joyfully in the attic since August.

You can sign up now, just send an email to Katja on Katja@haargaard.dk. Mia has already volunteered to do kitchen duty.

The walkway to Leigh still blocked, and there are no news about any immediate repair.

JOHN ROBERT COURTENAY

15 NOVEMBER 1934 - 26 DECEMBER 2017

John Courtenay, our neighbour at Valhalla for the past 36 years, passed away on Boxing Day aged 83 years.

John purchased The Outpost 4 years after the Danish Society purchased Valhalla and from then on has been the best neighbour we could possibly hope for. He was always open, friendly and helpful. Nothing has ever been too much trouble. Over the year he has been extremely generous and has saved the club thousands of dollars. He would often pay for road upgrades and then never sent us the bill. He would loan us equipment and staff to help at Valhalla. He has been a great neighbour and will be sadly missed.

Many of us have socialized with him, either at The Outpost or Valhalla. He has always made his home open and we will miss the long evenings over a glass or two of wine.

John's funeral was held at the Outpost. Many people paid tribute to John and all made reference to his generosity and helpful nature. The club sent condolences to John's family along with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. When the casket was carried out, the local Maori honoured John with a haka.

It has been a great friendship between neighbours for the last 36 years. The beginning of a new era has now begun with John's daughters Jane, Leigh, Dale now looking after the property.





CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN DANISH HOUSE

First there was a full house for the julehygge and the Danish Christmas service. Thank you, Finn Nielsen and family who served delicious æbleskiver before and after the Danish Christmas service. This was also very well attended, and we are extremely grateful to pastor Anja Grønne Mathiasen for coming all the way up here from Dunedin, allowing us to hear the Christmas message in Danish.

There was also a full house at the Children's Xmas party. Thank you to Mia and all her helpers for another great Xmas party with a very funny magician.



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CONTRIBUTE TO OUR MAGAZINE

The next magazine deadline is **20th of February**.
All contributions welcome - in English or Danish
(with a short summary in English) to this email:
editor@danishsociety.org.nz
The magazine can also be read (in full colour) on-
line at www.danishsociety.org.nz