

# SKANDIA QUARTERLY

MARCH 2011

*Newsletter of The Scandinavian Club of Manawatu Inc. (including the Wellington Scandinavian Club)*

*P O Box 84, Palmerston North Central, Palmerston North 4440, New Zealand*

*Club email address: [scandiamanawatu@gmail.com](mailto:scandiamanawatu@gmail.com)*

**[www.manawatu.scandinavian.org.nz](http://www.manawatu.scandinavian.org.nz)**

*First Newsletter July 1979.*

**Annual Membership Fees: Single \$10.00, Family \$15.00 (Overseas – refer: Secretary/Treasurer)**

**Committee:** President: Jean Thompson-Church 357 2556 or email [onky@inspire.net.nz](mailto:onky@inspire.net.nz), Vice-Presidents Mike Pettersen 354 9196 and Val Burr 354 3817, Secretary/Treasurer: Anne Odogwu 356 2476 or email [odo.anne@gmail.com](mailto:odo.anne@gmail.com) also for Skandia Quarterly; Social Secretary Rachel Silver 357 7281 Committee: David Petersen 358 4424, Liz Fenn 323 4599, ; Karen Mills 355 9123; Johan Bonnevie 358 6366, Tony Church 357 2556; Tom Fagan; Elvira Olsen 358 0516, Evie Schou 358 7996.

***Aim of the Club:*** *The aim of this Club is to foster the Cultural, Historical and Social events of a Scandinavian Nature.*

**Our sympathy and best wishes for the future is extended to the people of Christchurch and all those with family or friends there.**

At the Opening of the Scandinavian Festival The Hon. John Hayes, in his welcome suggested that one way of assisting people affected by the earthquake would be to invite them to our homes for a change – especially to have a break from the shaking. If anyone wants to send a message of support or offer accommodation.

Register with: [www.quakeescape.org.nz/RegisterAccommodation.aspx](http://www.quakeescape.org.nz/RegisterAccommodation.aspx)

or email: [admin@quakeescape.org.nz](mailto:admin@quakeescape.org.nz)

Since I commenced the Newsletter we have witnessed the dreadful 3-fold disaster in Japan and our sympathy goes to any Japanese who may read this and people with Japanese connections.

**Festival of Cultures, Saturday 26 March, 2011** The Club will have a stall at this Function in the Square at Palmerston North from 10 am – 2 pm - we hope to see many of our Club Members while we are there. The proceeds from a grocery raffle at the Multicultural Council Stall will go to Christchurch.

**Club AGM – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011 at MYLIFE Kelvin Grove, Cnr James Line & Brooklyn Heights, Palmerston North at 2pm.**

Ian Macfarlane, from Wellington, is to be our Guest Speaker. Ian is a Great Great Grandson of Bishop Monrad of whom it is rightly said "New Zealand is the richer for his time spent here and for his priceless gift to New Zealand".

Ian has led a varied and exciting life, - for many years was an editor and owned a publishing company.

He is a Cape Horn yachtsman and has sailed up the mighty Amazon River.

He is coming to speak to us about the Monrad Celebrations later in the year.

**Please put this page on your fridge.**



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## **A word from the Editor**

Hello Everyone

Well the Scandinavian Festival has been and gone. People thoroughly enjoyed it and we appreciate the fantastic job done by Jean Thompson-Church, the Festival Convenor, and the Norsewood Promotions Group Team – especially Peter Mannix, MC for the whole weekend, John Ellison organiser of the Cultural Market Day on the Saturday and Robyn Yearbury who was Jean's right hand person on the spot, who not only organised the Catering but did so many other things. Without these people there wouldn't have been a festival.

It's the work that goes on in the background, not only in the months and years leading up to the Festival, but all the last minute things that have to be attended to in order to ensure that all goes smoothly.

It is a great way of remembering the achievements of the Scandinavian immigrants in the 1870s, not forgetting the contribution by modern Scandinavian immigrants who have walked a very different path to those early ones, who had to walk to their homes from the nearest port, carve out roads and railways and in their spare time develop their farms, etc.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

*Anne Odogwu*

## **A word from the President**

Thank you to all who have supported us in so many ways as we lead up to the festival, attended the Festival, - it was a busy time, but a rewarding one as most went away with happy memories of the time spent in Norsewood and Dannevirke.

We move towards the Annual General Meeting, - this will be an interesting meeting, and I urge you to make the effort to attend, Ian Macfarlane is an interesting gentleman, and has great plans for Celebrating later in the year.

The AGM is a time when new life is breathed into the Club when we invited members to be part of the Committee.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

***Jean Thompson-Church QSM***

**Contributions for the June Newsletter are welcome and must be in by 27th May 2011**

**NEWS OF CLUB MEMBERS (Anne Odogwu)**

We have had a few sad months as we've lost three valued members.

**Jocelyn Olsen** died on 15<sup>th</sup> December and the Club extended its sympathy to Jack and family on their sad loss. Since then Jack has been in hospital so missed out on the Festival. He'd even grown a foot-long beard for the occasion! We are glad to hear that he is recovering and will be having a big change when he moves to Eketahuna.

**Jack Curtis** died on 31<sup>st</sup> January and the Club extended its sympathy to Joan and Family and some of us attended Jack's funeral. Jack was one of the founders of the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu and was responsible for creating a tradition where Viking boats were built and burnt. The first one we witnessed was at the Gathering in Mauriceville when Peter Olsen prepared fence battens with sacking at one end and we marched along the country road with the flaming battens and then set the boat on fire. Jack and others organised our entries in the Palmerston North and later the Feilding Christmas Parades which we thoroughly enjoyed taking part in and we won a prize in Palmerston North one time. I thought Jack should have been put on a Viking boat and set sailing down the Manawatu Gorge. Jack was certainly a very memorable person and I'm sure that all who knew Jack will have lots of stories about him.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> March **Øystein "Stan" Andresen** died and the Club extended its sympathy to Maria and Christina on their sad loss. Øystein had put in so much to the Festival that it was great that he was able to take a full part in it. Øystein was "Mr Norsewood" succeeding in ensuring that it has the Johanna's World complex with the backpackers, a cabin such as Johanna would have lived in and a traditional Norwegian stave church. Øystein will not be forgotten and will live on in our memories. The photo following is of Øystein with two of the Hallingdal Valley Mountaineers who came to take part in the Festival. Øystein put so much effort into ensuring that they came and it was a great joy to see their dancing and hear their music. Thank you Øystein and thanks to Maria and Christina for their loving support of Øystein. I was pleased to hear that Øystein had completed his book about the Snowy Mountain project when we went to the liturgy on Monday evening. Val Burr & Jean Thompson-Church attended the Funeral Service.



**This issue is devoted to reporting the Festival - Club news will be in the next Newsletter.**

## **FESTIVAL REPORT from Jean Thompson-Church**

In writing this report I am very mindful that without the support and assistance of members of the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu Inc. and Norsewood Promotions Inc. the Festival would not have been staged. It is also important that we acknowledge the support of the Tararua District Council, the Palmerston North City Council, the Norsewood Lions Club, and others – too many to name!

It is also acknowledged with gratitude that without the awesome support of the Norsewood people, this Festival would not have been staged in Norsewood. It is not good to single out people, however, Robyn and Gary Yearbury, Ella Domper, John Ellison, Bill Gundersen, Judith Brenan, Rex Rosacker, and Peter Mannix I feel require special attention. Mention must be made of the support received from Kurt and Carol Marquart from Auckland. Kurt gave his all to this Festival, and we are so grateful to them.

**The Hallingdal Mountaineers Down Yonder:** Øystein Andresen had a vision to bring this group to New Zealand for the Festival. We had major concerns regarding the financial burden this would place on the Festival, however, their presence enhanced the Festival, their friendship and their talents will long be remembered. I will remember sitting with Øystein on the Saturday afternoon of the Festival, he said to me, “I am so happy”, and the look on his face was one of contentment and satisfaction.

**Danish Dancers & Fiddling Group:** Imagine our delight when “Lone” of Adventure Tours contacted us asking if her touring party could attend, and be part of the Festival at no cost to us. It was a wonderful addition to the Festival, their colourful costumes, their friendship, and their talent will be remembered for a long time.

**The Auckland Danish Dancers** – We welcomed this group, and enjoyed their company and their performances.

**Norsewood School:** The Principal, Kevin Zachan, went the extra thousand miles with his staff and pupils. The Open Day at the School was a day to be remembered, the Powhiri to our Guests was memorable, as was the dancing and entertainment by the Children. The Children were present at the Market Day, and some were present on the Sunday morning. The way the children behaved was wonderful. Those pupils who presented flags at the Opening Ceremony in National Costume were a delight. Our thanks must go to Raewyn Clark for organising the children, and for arranging for the National Costumes to be made – Costumes which have been presented to the Norsewood School.

Jean's report then covers the Programme including the Mayor of Palmerston North's welcome to the Norwegian guests and their hosts on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February with finger food. On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February the Mayor Tararua District Council welcomed them to Tararua with a Morning Tea.

The Opening Ceremony at the Dannevirke Town Hall was well attended. We were honoured to have the Governor General and Lady Susan in attendance. Our Governor General did us proud and certainly set the tone for the Festival with his Opening Speech.

The Flag Ceremony conducted by Peter Jackson from Pukekohe, saw Norsewood School Pupils, accompanied by an adult all dressed in National Costume presenting the flags to the

former Mayor of Tararua, Maureen Reynolds. Rousing music was played by Robert Cleaver and the National Anthems were sung. The Dannevirke Viking Choir was in attendance. Welcome Speeches were made. The Whispering Roads' Project was launched and Peter Mannix, the MC, for the weekend kept us all on our toes, not letting us stray from the programme as scheduled.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February, dawned with a cold wind, and the threat of rain, but spirits were not dampened. John Ellison and his Committee had worked hard to make sure it was a memorable Cultural Day, and it certainly was. Bill Gundersen was responsible for the Flag raising. Saturday evening saw a large crowd at the Dannevirke Town Hall for the Banquet and Dance. The atmosphere in the Hall was 'electric' – The Toast to the Pioneer Settlers was made and replied to, and then the customary Akvavit (Schnapps) Toast was experienced! Attendees 'danced the night away'. The caterers did us proud. It was a wonderful night, a fitting conclusion for a really good day.

Sunday saw us back at the Norsewood for the Thanksgiving Service, our Keynote Speaker Roger Clausen, and the Closing Ceremony. The Flags were lowered at the Village Green, where we all sang Auld Lang Syne.

Memories abound, and we look forward to meeting in similar circumstances somewhere in New Zealand in two years' time.

Jean Thompson-Church - Festival Convener

## SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> February at Dannevirke and Norsewood

This year the Scandinavian Festival took place in Norsewood and Dannevirke. It was hosted by the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu and the Norsewood Promotion Centre. Our Convenor was Jean Thompson-Church QSM and Jean did a fantastic job ably assisted by Norsewood Promotions Inc.

For us in Palmerston North it commenced with the arrival of a small Norwegian Group –



The Hallingdale Valley Mountaineers – a dancing group. We met them over finger food and then those of us billeting them took them to our homes. It was an enjoyable experience for the hosts having the opportunity to get to know them better.

This Group came from temperatures of 22 below to 22 above and more so found it a great change. They entertained the residents at Summerset Retirement Village in Palmerston North before travelling to Norsewood.

Olav displays his beautiful, carved Hardanger violin. I knew about the Hardanger Fjord and Hardanger embroidery but had never heard of the Hardanger violin. It was lovely to hear it in my home as Olav and Ulf stayed with me. The Hardanger violin has the



usual four strings but in addition has five sympathetic strings and is really beautiful to hear. The carving was also very beautiful as shown by Olav in this photo.

Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> February was an Open Day at Norsewood School. The children showed their guests around the school and the work that they had done in preparation. Each classroom had studied one of the Scandinavian countries. In the afternoon there was a Maori welcome and Johan Bonnevie, our Scandinavian Club of Manawatu Norwegian member, replied in Maori and English.



Johan Bonnevie, Scandinavian Club of Manawatu Inc. replying to the Powhiri

That evening the Opening Ceremony took place at the Dannevirke Town Hall. The Governor General, The Right Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand opened the Festival. This was followed by the Flag Ceremony when each flag was brought in by a School Pupil with a person from the country or descended from citizens of their country. After each flag was raised the National Anthem was then sung in English. The Danish flag and national anthem are always first and then it was followed by the Faeroe Islands, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland and New Zealand.

The Whispering roads; Wellington – Napier, a Scandinavian trail was then launched with booklets. The route can be travelled either way which introduces the traveller to places where the early Scandinavians cleared the land and built roads and railways in addition to establishing farms and the dairy industry.

It was a great opportunity to learn how the early migrants lived and how tough it was settling in to a land that had never been farmed in the European way. Often because the trees were being cleared there would be huge bushfires and people often lost every last possession that they had carried to their new land.

That evening we returned to the Dannevirke Town Hall for our Banquet and more entertainment including the Rock On Band with Norsewood or ex-Norsewood members. All enjoyed the evening and carried on swapping tales of their family stories. A family group from Christchurch had actually made it to the Festival and enjoyed it very much.

The next morning we had the Thanksgiving Service and Closing Ceremony at the Norsewood School on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Those taking part were: Pastor Lee Kroehn (Lutheran Pastor, Palmerston North Parish); Alan Mason (Norsewood); Bishop Peter Cullinane (Bishop of Palmerston North Diocese); Anne Petersen (Scandinavian Club of Manawatu Inc.); Pastor Anja Mathiassen (Danish Church of New Zealand). The final Benediction was sung to the tune of Eidelweiss:

May the Lord, Mighty God  
Bless and keep you forever  
Grant you peace, perfect peace,

Courage in every endeavour,  
Lift up your eyes and see His face,  
And His grace forever  
May the Lord, Mighty God,  
Bless and keep you forever.

This was followed by our Keynote Speaker, Roger Clausen QSM. Roger is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation New Zealander. His first forebears arrived on a ship that was flying a yellow flag when it arrived in Wellington as 8 people had died of typhus and 11 people were being treated for it. The 18<sup>th</sup> March 1876 was a grey day with a howling southerly, and a bush fire raging in the hills as the ship arrived after a 120 day voyage. It was sent to Somes Island till the people were cleared and allowed to finally arrive in Wellington.

### ***Excerpts from Roger Clausen's speech.***

Roger's Great Grand-Parents Anders and Ablid Clausen and their six children, ranging in age from 19 years down to 6 months. The reason for their immigration to New Zealand was the loss of the war against Prussia and Austria over Slesvig and Holstein on the Danish-German border. A decisive battle took place on the Clausen farm at Dybbol.

With the occupation of the region and their native language and culture suppressed Anders and Abild joined the stream of Danes emigrating to other countries in search of a new freedom. There was also the fear that the older boys would have been conscripted into the Prussian Army if they tried to settle again in Dybbol.

Bishop Monrad was made the scapegoat for the loss of the war so went to New Zealand in 1866. In 1869 leaving 2 sons on the farm at Karere Bishop Monrad returned to Denmark to actively promote Julius Vogel's initiative to bring Scandinavian immigrants to New Zealand. Most of these immigrants helped clear the land of bush but now Roger and Marian live in Kairanga where they have 6 acres of native bush behind our house.

This bush is a typical remnant of the lowland podocarp forest that once covered the Manawatu. There are magnificent Kahikatea, Pukutea, Titoki, Tawa, Matai, Kowhai and many others. Obviously this is now a treasure. *(Next year we are looking at having our club picnic at Roger's place so we can explore this bush. Anne Odogwu)*

Ashhurst and Longburn are named for the forest fires that took place there. Some died in the many fires and others died when losing their way in the dense forest.

While developing their land many had to work 3 or 4 days a week to earn money to cover living expenses, often building roads and a major source of the gravel required in the area was the huge metal pit at Terrace End, now known as Fitzroy or Memorial Park. (It was named Memorial Park as a memorial to those who gave their lives during the Second World War.)

The womenfolk were a tower of strength looking after their families, helping on the land or supporting one another as they suffered from homesickness or loneliness. Yes, these determined and resilient people were truly: "The builders of a Nation" — thousands of acres of bush cleared, pastures sown and fenced, buildings and homes erected, roads formed and bridges built. Their achievements cannot be understated.

Roger grew up hearing tales of his courageous and hard-working forbears — a very different world to that of his grandchildren who are 6<sup>th</sup> generation Palmerstonians.

Roger also recalled the “Lutheran” faith coming to New Zealand with these Scandinavian immigrants. Only two of these churches remain today – Mauriceville has occasional services and in Palmerston North St Luke's Lutheran Church, formerly the Danish Lutheran Church continues to thrive after 130 years.

Bishop Desmond Tutu said: “One of the greatest gifts we can give another generation is our experience, our wisdom.”

So as we continue our journey along life's way, always be encouraged to: Look Back; Look Around; Look Ahead; but above all, Look Up; From whence cometh our help.

A great heritage was handed onto us. Will we prove worthy? How will our descendants remember us?

### **SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVALS**

The First Gatherings took place in Norsewood, 1983 followed by Mauriceville, New Plymouth, Dannevirke, Foxton, Auckland, Carterton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, Auckland and back to Norsewood. They reflect the centres settled by the Scandinavians and modern Scandinavian immigrants. The idea was to commemorate the way our forebears lived when they arrived in New Zealand and the hardships they endured in clearing the land for farming. It is most important to remember these people who made such sacrifices in leaving their homelands forever and in the case of my grandparents even losing their own Danish language in the effort to learn English. It shows that we Scandinavians have a similar culture to the Tangata Whenua as we seek to commemorate these people.

Anne Odogwu nee Jorgensen



Some of the Danish Dancing Group

Please, send any suggestions that would help improve Festivals in the future. This would be very much appreciated, and would be handed onto the organising Committee for the next Festival.

## RESULTS OF ART COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

**Windmill:** Keon Graham, Totara College; Brooklyn Gray, Totara College  
Tyla Reid, Totara College.

### **Charcoal Sketching Yr 6:**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Jonty Anderson, Norsewood & District Primary School

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Laura Friel, Norsewood & District Primary School

Luke Janssen, Hanna Ellingham, Tansy Ferguson, Mikayle-Grace Zachan, all from the Norsewood & District Primary School

### **Prints**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Nicole Montgomery, Norsewood & District Primary School

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Mikayla Thorner, Norsewood & District Primary School

Tanisha Thompson, Jack Ellingham, & Sarah Friel, Norsewood & District School

### **Trolls: All entrants from Totara College**

Malachi Charlton, Senita Osborn-Edwards, Boyd Lyferd, Joel Charlton, Matthew Osborn, Chayden Reid, Rosanna Matthews, Tamsin Harrison,

### **Painting 4-6**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Zara, Norsewood & District School

VHC: Brenna, Norsewood & District School

**Congratulations to all those who took part in this and also to the Prize Winners.  
Thank you for taking part.**

## **Hello All Norwegian Passport Holders**

Please find the following information regarding renewal of Norwegian passports for those 12 years and older. With new biometric guidelines in place, you would normally have to travel to the Embassy in Canberra or back to Norway to renew your passport. However, an Embassy representative will be coming to the Wellington Consulate General office on 4th April 2011 and Auckland Consulate 5th April, to capture biometric data for those wishing to renew their passports, saving you an overseas trip at your own expense. If you wish to take the opportunity, or know of any Norwegian passport holder who requires a new biometric passport, please forward them this information.

Appointments and queries can be made by emailing the Embassy directly at [emb.canberra.consular@mfa.no](mailto:emb.canberra.consular@mfa.no) before 1 April 2011.

Please read through the requirements carefully and ensure ALL required documentation such as a Denial of New Zealand Citizenship is obtained before the appointment at the Consulate office otherwise your application may not be processed.

Regards

Wendy Leong

For the Royal Norwegian Consulate General

Deloitte House, 10 Brandon Street, PO Box 1990, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Ph: +64 (0) 4 471 2503 | Fax: +64 (0) 4 472 8023 [norconsulgen@deloitte.co.nz](mailto:norconsulgen@deloitte.co.nz) | [www.norway.org.au](http://www.norway.org.au)

## **BOOKS FOR SALE by the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu**

**Skandia I: Early Manawatu Scandinavians:** Published 1990 and later an Index was added by Val Burr **\$20.** Skandia I tells the life stories of the Scandinavians living in the Palmerston North, Manawatu and Southern Hawke's Bay area.

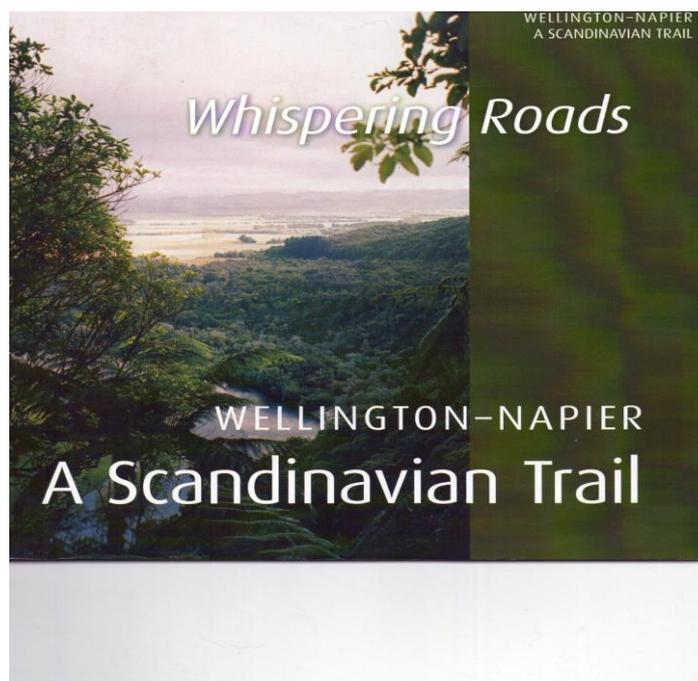
**Skandia II: Mosquitoes & sawdust; a history of Scandinavians in early Palmerston North & surrounding districts** by Val Burr on behalf of the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu. Published 1995. **\$25** With a lot more detail than the first book. It has been reprinted.

**Johanna's World by Øystein Andresen.** Translated by Johan Bonnevie **\$30.00.** Based on a true story ... the year is 1873 and Johanna is about to leave her home country Norway, travelling to far off New Zealand. The author tells of the farewells when leaving Norway, of their boat passage through the tropics and on to New Zealand. The story continues as Johanna and family carry their belongings from Napier towards the place that was soon to be known as Norsewood. At last they arrive at their section of land to find it covered in dense bush. They built their homes out of slab timber from the bush, only to have their homes burnt to the ground during the great fires of the 1880s. The story continues into the 1900s.

**WHISPERING ROADS – Wellington-Napier; a Scandinavian Trail** edited by Kay Flavell \$10. 42 pages:

This booklet was launched at the Scandinavian Festival on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

The booklet is well illustrated with photos and early maps. An extensive list for further reading is supplied. It supplies information that makes the trail very interesting as it gives the history of the area so instead of racing from Napier to Wellington or vice-versa you can make a leisurely trip following this information and learn about the pioneers who settled this area. The booklet will be expanded into a full book later this year.



**Scandinavian FOOTPRINTS; a story of Scandinavians settling in New Zealand by Margin Brew:** In the 1870s the Scandinavians arrived in New Zealand and opened up new parts of the country for development, enabling roads and railways to be built. Sober and industrious, they impressed other settlers with cheerful disposition. In 1866 the Swede, Erik Friberg and his young wife, Bror Erik arrived in Hawke's Bay and acted as a government agent. This book tells of the hardships endured by these pioneers as they arrived heavily in debt to the government and strive to survive in a country where nobody speaks their language. There is plenty of sickness; deaths are frequent; and the inclement weather prevents them working. However, as Vikings, there were true

trail blazers! In New Zealand's dairying and agricultural industries. This 319p book is available for \$15.

**There is now a standard postage and handling charge of \$4 for each of these books. Please include this when ordering books.**

### **FESTIVAL SOUVINER**

Scandinavian Festival Souvenir Coasters: set of 4 for \$30 + postage of \$4.00.

They are made of clear glass with the Norsewood Scandi-Wheel emblem or the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu Inc. emblem. They are in sets of 4 — 4 Norsewood ones or 4 Manawatu ones or 2 of each.

### **FESTIVAL PENS ARE STILL AVAILABLE.**

**SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL DVD** These are available for \$50 + \$5 postage. There are over 1,000 photos on the DVD. You can get an idea of what's on the DVD, or **order photos from [www.bestill.co.nz](http://www.bestill.co.nz)** – or you can order from the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu, Inc., P O Box 84 – Palmerston North Central, Palmerston North 4440

*Farvel.*

*Anne Odoquu*

*Editor*