



SCANDINAVIAN
CLUB OF MANAWATU Inc

SKANDIA QUARTERLY

September 2011

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

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First Newsletter July 1979.

Annual Membership Fees: Single \$15.00, Family \$20.00 (Overseas – refer: Treasurer)

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

A word from the Editor

Hello Everyone

We hope you enjoyed the last Newsletter and that you will enjoy catching up on news from other Clubs this time.

We are looking at changing our Big Day Out on Waitangi Weekend in 2012 as more people will be able to take part at that time. We are planning on visiting Te Wahiti Museum in Hawera and a Zoo near New Plymouth so will go by bus.

Well my infallible sign of Spring came today, 3rd September, when my clothes were nice and warm when I took them off the line. Wishing you all a very happy Spring.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

Anne Odogwu

A word from President Jean

It has been another interesting month for the Club, planning that has gone on for the months ahead see plenty of activity coming up.

I have been working closely with Ian Macfarlane for the Monrad Celebrations – the first events are to be held this month with the launch of the book “Bishop Monrad in Aotearoa” at St. Pauls Lutheran Church in Wellington on September 21st. The response has been so encouraging that the supper following at the Greta Point Cafe is oversubscribed. Pays to get in early for these events. The following morning Tony and I will be attending the opening of the Selected Etchings from the Monrad Collection at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Included with this Newsletter will be a sheet outlining all the events for the Bi-Centenary – with the next Newsletter there will be full details of the Events in Palmerston North on November 26th.

I trust that you will enjoy with us all upcoming events.

President – Jean Thompson-Church QSM

Contributions for the November Newsletter are welcome and must be in by 30th October, 2011.

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CLUB MEMBERS' NEWS

Anne Odogwu received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Manawatu Multicultural Council for her work as Vice-President for 2 years.

Val Burr and Anne made a case for joining the Multicultural Council some years back when we were ensuring that Celaeno Park would be named for its Scandinavian connection. We therefore, felt it wise to ensure a Scandinavian connection in the local Ethnic Council as it was at the time.

Elvira Olsen also represents the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu and enjoys the meetings, etc. Elvira recently took part in the tour of Parliament where many of those visiting Parliament were amazed to think that we can tour our Parliament.

I recommend Scandinavian Clubs to join their Multicultural Councils as the European cultures need to be represented. We now have a French Secretary and Anne is still Vice-President for another year.

JOHANSEN FAMILY REUNION 2011

Bernt and Lisabet Johansen arrived in New Zealand in 1871 on board the Celaeno. Initially from Nes in Norway, they were part of an initial group of Scandinavians who settled in Palmerston North (*Skandia I*). They had 10 children, eight of whom lived to adulthood. People are still living in the house that Bernt built in 1886 on Rangitikei Line. Many family items are retained by Te Manawa Museum, Palmerston North.

The Johansen family today still remembers that, that start gave them our home in New Zealand. On April 16th the family gathered again for the tenth family reunion since 1968. Originally, the reunion was held at Springdale but several years ago it was moved to the Te Aroha Racecourse to cater for the increasing numbers. The reunion is held every five years and brings together all the branches of the family. Every branch is known by the child they descend from. In the writer's case I am a "Lance". "Lance" (Louritz) and "Embret" are the largest groups but they range down to "Joe" (Johan) with 3 descendants attending this year. The size of each group leads to much good-natured jocularly. This year over 170 took part in the day, coming from throughout New Zealand and also from Australia. It was particularly pleasing to see the large number of younger generations attending.

After an initial meet and greet a Thanksgiving service was held. Led by Jo Rutledge, the service took us back to the past, acknowledged our heritage and the family links that remain today. Nel Old (who was the oldest living direct descendant in attendance) played both the Norwegian and New Zealand national anthems. Peter Scott reflected on the life the immigrants left and what they came to. Judy Begovich spoke about the hair embroidery completed by Lisabet from the hair of her two deceased children and now held by the Dannevirke Museum.

The afternoon was spent with family photographs and in fellowship. The opportunity was also taken to update family trees and to view family exhibits provided by Te Manawa Museum. The family is very grateful to the Museum for holding them for the family.

In the evening a dinner is held which includes many traditions passed down through the years. Included in this is lighting the family candle and lighting the candles on other tables from that flame. The New Zealand and Norwegian flags are proudly displayed. After dinner a disco plays and the final attendees leave in the wee small hours.

Over the years the interest in the family history and our Norwegian heritage has I believe grown stronger. There is a growing number that attend the Scandinavian Gatherings and indeed we gleaned many ideas from the last Festival such as the reading of the meaning of the flag and attempting Scandinavian drinking songs. The reunion allows us the opportunity to get together regularly as a family.

These things don't happen by chance and I was lucky to have a strong organising committee with a lot of work being put in by our Secretary, Megan Farac. My thanks also go to the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu and Te Manawa Museum for their continued assistance.

Peter Scott
Chairman
Johansen Reunion Organising Committee

Thank you Peter for this great contribution. It's great to hear of such a large family gathering and that it has been happening every five years. Congratulations on such a great achievement. Editor Anne

Enquiry from Adelaide, Australia re possible family links

Does anyone know of this family? Mark Knight has asked if anyone knows of the Hansen family who were in the Manawatu. Mark's Grandmother was Lily Hansen. Her parents were Niels Christian and Ragnhild Hansen. Lily's sisters were: Ingeborg, Marie and Hulda. He is not sure of their married names but Petterson and Downing or Downie are possibilities.

If anyone has any knowledge or family links to this family, please, contact Anne or Jean and we will pass on Mark's contact details.

CLUB NEWS

On 14th August 14 of us met at Johan Bonnevie's to share memories of our Scandinavian connections and the results were:

Jean - recalled visiting Denmark with Stan when they attended a Conference in 1986 for NCR in Copenhagen. On the last night Stan suggested they have a slap-up meal and they ordered American Angus steak which cost them US\$50.00. The most expensive meal they had ever had!

Jean's Grandfather Las Lassen arrived in Wellington on the England in 1871 came up the coast and Foxton River. They were hosted by the Te Awe Awe family at the Rangiotu Marae. Her Grandmother's family Anderson-Bak's arrived in 1872 on the Ballarat into Napier.

Elvira spoke about the Hovding when a brave Norwegian sailor had thrown a blazing tar barrel over the side. There were 500 people on board and the barrel was being fumigated when it caught alight so without that brave sailor there would have been a major tragedy.

Anne - spoke of attending Den Internationalen Højskole in Helsingør (Elsinore) and showed some photos from that time. The school was founded after the First World War in an attempt to prove that if people of different nationalities lived together they would learn to appreciate each other and there might not be wars in the future.

Anne's Danish grandparents, Jens and Marie Christine Jorgensen, were married in Haderslev in 1873 and then travelled to New Zealand where their first child was born in Tawa Flat in December 1874. Jens was born in 1841 and Marie in 1846 and I, the first Jorgensen grandchild, was born in 1946 so it's an amazing story. Jens had taken part in the Danish-Prussian war in 1864 and would never admit that their area became part of Germany so always just said that he was born in Denmark and never recorded the actual town.

Rachel Johnson - Axel and his daughter have located the actual home in Oslo that Rachel's family had lived in. Her ancestor was a beer carrier, which Johan said was an important job. They found some new information so that some of the facts in the book will have to be changed. They are having a family reunion on 24 September at the RSA. Rachel presented the Gallery of History in Dannevirke with a copy of her book and copies have been given to 20 schools.

Joan Curtis said that Jack's family had arrived on the Pleides in Wellington and made their way to Mauriceville. Joan had brought some Scandinavian tapes and other bits and pieces to give to the Club. They included the Galley song that is sung while the Viking boat is burnt. Joan also brought a scrapbook from the early years of the Club to show us.

David Petersen spoke about his family which goes back to 1864 the period when boundaries of Denmark and Germany were redrawn as Germany pushed a long way up the Jutland (Jylland) peninsula and land south of the peninsula. In 1920 some of the Jutland area was restored to Denmark after a plebiscite. The family moved north after the war and David's Grandfather came to New

Zealand in 1894 and his Grandmother arrived in 1896. His Grandmother worked for the Lutheran parish — milking the cow, cleaning the church and caring for the cemetery.

When his Grandparents married they bought a small farm at Bunnythorpe and had four children. They returned to Denmark in 1904 but were surprised at the changes since they had left so they worked hard and returned to New Zealand. David's Father married in 1932 and worked for a farmer. David's Mother had been service in England and through a contact came to New Zealand.

Johan showed us a photo of the view from his Norwegian bedroom so all were very interested. Johan also showed us a nail from a Viking boat that had been weighed down by ice and when the ice melted the land rose up and the ship was found. Viking boats were held together with iron. Johan's nail was from a Viking boat found about 100 years ago.

Ann Hill — Ann's Mother Frieda was the Club Patron for some years. Frieda's Father came from Harstad, on the coast of Norway, and met Frieda's Mother who was Italian. Frieda went on her own to Norway in 1971 when she was almost blind. The family were whalers.

In exchanging memories people were reminded of other memories of their own. We continued exchanging memories over afternoon tea.

Norwegians hold Memorial Service

Norway's Prime Minister, Jens Stoltenberg, urged his countrymen to look after each other and be vigilant for intolerance, as the nation concluded a month-long mourning period with a candlelit memorial service for the 77 people killed by a Right-wing extremist.

Speaking at an arena in Oslo, Jens Stoltenberg said "we need you, No matter where you live, no matter which god you worship, each and every one of us can take responsibility and can guard freedom".

The Prime Minister, who received a standing ovation during his speech said: "Together we are an unbreakable chain of car, democracy and safety — that is our protection against violence".

"Today, time stops in order to remember those who died We do it as one nation. Every candle has warmed, every thought has comforted, every rose has given hope. We are a small country, but we are a large people. "Today, time stops in order to remember those who died We do it as one nation.

The following letter was received Ruth Mainland, Secretary Shetland Society of Wellington recently. Thank you Ruth and your Society.

August 2011

At our recent AGM I was asked to convey to your members, especially those with Norwegian connections, our condolences following the recent outrageous events in Norway.

Because Norway is such a beautiful and peaceful country these events are truly repugnant.

Sincere sympathy and warm greetings to you from the Shetland Society of Wellington.

Ruth Mainland, secretary

The Mark of Denmark

Princess Alexandra Carolina Marie Charlotte Louise Julia of Denmark was born on the 1st December 1844 at the Yellow Palace in Copenhagen. At the age of sixteen she was chosen as the future wife of Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, the heir of Queen Victoria.

As Princess of Wales from 1863 to 1901, the longest anyone has ever held that title, she won the hearts of the British people. She became immensely popular, her style of dress and bearing were copied by most fashion-conscious women at the time.

Princess Alexandra was a devout Christian throughout her entire life, and always followed High Church beliefs. She and the Prince of Wales were married on the 10th March, 1863. By the end of the following year, Alexandra's Father had ascended the throne of Denmark, as King Christian IX, which gave rise to further problems over the fate of Slesvig-Holstein. Her brother George became the King of Greece and her sister Dagmar was engaged to the Tsarevitch of Russia. Both the Prince and Princess of Wales gave their full support to Denmark during the war which ended in 1864 with a

victory for the German Confederation. The Prussian conquest of Danish land heightened Alexandra's dislike of the Germans; a feeling which stayed with her for the rest of her life.

"I may be pale, but it is from anger at being obliged to see the King of Prussia, and not from cold."

Queen Alexandra on her hatred for Prussians

In public Alexandra was dignified and charming, in private affectionate and she was devoted to her children. When Alexander II of Russia was assassinated in 1881, both the Prince and Princess of Wales travelled to Saint Petersburg to represent Britain, but also so Alexandra could be with her sister who was now the Tsarina, and provide support during a difficult time.

Alexandra undertook many public duties and took a keen interest in the London Hospital, regularly visiting Joseph Merrick, who was also known as the 'Elephant Man'. In 1864, her brother-in-law, Alexander III of Russia, died and her now widowed sister, the Dowager Empress Maria, depended heavily on support from Alexandra who stayed beside and prayed with her sister until Alexander's burial two weeks later.

With the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, Alexandra became Queen-Empress Consort to the new King, and her domain included the United Kingdom, The British Empire including New Zealand and Empress Consort of India. Alexandra and Edward were crowned together in August 1901, she by the Archbishop of York and he by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

She remained deeply distrustful of Germany and opposed anything which she believed would favour their expansion or interest. In 1890 she wrote to a number of British ministers and senior military personnel warning against the planned exchange of the British North Sea Island of Heligoland for the German colony of Zanzibar but to no avail. The Germans fortified the island and it became a key maritime position for Germany during WWI.

Alexandra retained a youthful appearance into her senior years but during the time of WWI her age started to show. She took to wearing elaborate veils and more make-up and was still setting the female society fashion, which included a slight limp for more than fifty years.

During her years as both Princess of Wales and Queen Consort she gave personal support to many causes including buying a river launch named Alexandra to ferry the wounded during the Sudan Campaign and to fit out a hospital ship called the Princess of Wales to bring back wounded from the Boer War in South Africa. She also founded Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service later renamed Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

It should be noted that the New Zealand South Island town of Alexandra, was named after Queen Alexandra, who started life as Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

Sent by Carlo Mikkelsen

From: *Danish Society News Magazine June 2011.*

(There was an Alexandra Street in Palmerston North but in World War I when all German names were changed that name was lost which was a superb irony when she so disliked the Germans. By the way if you Google Queen Alexandria there are beautiful photos and she was regarded as one of England's most beautiful Queens. Editor Anne)

DUBLINIA

Experience Viking and Medieval Dublin

When visiting Dublin you may like to visit the Dublinia Museum which is dedicated to the Viking history of Dublin.

The first Vikings arrived in Ireland in 795 AD in a fleet of sixty longships that sailed up the River Liffey in Dubhlinn (meaning Black Pool, from which the city of Dublin takes its name) and raided churches, forts and dwellings, from that time it was the Danes who had political and commercial influence in Dublin. The Danes were eventually expelled a few centuries later but they left quite a legacy of archaeological remains, family names and place names.

In addition to Olaf the Coinmaker there were clothes and dwellings of these early people. They take this to the streets during the Dublin Viking Festival in July and show many of the exhibits with the live historians. 2011 saw the Fourth Festival. You can see a programme on: www.dublinvikingfestival.ie
From: Danish Society News Magazine August 2011

(For explorers of the Viking World this sounds a must when visiting Dublin. Editor Anne)

Queen Margrethe visits Afghanistan

During March the Danish Queen made a surprise visit to Afghanistan - the first time she had ever visited troops in a war zone. She visited three camps in Helmand Province and spoke with some of the 750 Danish troops on duty there. She said "Now that I have had the opportunity to experience and see for myself how Danish soldiers are in Afghanistan I am both impressed and proud of the contribution they are making. Their drive, their determination and their good humour made an obvious impression on me." She was also encouraged to visit by her son Prince Frederik who was in Afghanistan earlier.

A history of the Otago Scandinavian Club Inc. was given and I shall give that in the next Newsletter. Unfortunately, the Club has closed down and I for one shall miss their Newsletters as they had such interesting information. Editor Anne

Radiation Reaches Sweden from Japan

Although radiation from Japan's damaged nuclear power plants has reached Sweden, the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority says the levels recorded pose no danger to citizens or the environment. Sweden is currently developing a

plan for long-term storage for its own nuclear waste. The plan provides for up to 8000 tonnes of used uranium to be sealed in copper pipes 500 metres underground in Uppland, north of Stockholm. Critics of the proposal maintain that it is not sufficiently proven that the copper pipes will remain intact for the necessary time of 100,000 years. Some even suggest that they might corrode after 1,000 years.

More news from the Otago Scandinavian Club Newsletter of April 2011 next time. Editor Anne

**The Olympic Flame will go to Shetland on its journey
around the United Kingdom in 2012**

The torch will arrive on Sunday 10th June 2012

Proverb: "you dunna talk ling among da drewie lines" ("If you want to achieve anything you have to make the effort").

Runes: There are approximately 50 recognised runic inscriptions from Orkney and Shetland combined. While firmly founded in historical evidence current understandings should not be taken as the True and Original Meanings of the Runes. Runes are a very personal experience, and no-one has the "right" or the "only" version. Get to know my interpretation of the ancient Norse alphabet:

Fe - cattle - Reward, Wealth, Nourishment, both the day-to-day reality of our lives and the catalyst that awakens us to what lies beyond.

Equivalent to the sound of "f" in English.

Cookery Corner

Shetland Oatcakes

Ingredients

6 oz Medium oatmeal	1 level teaspoon salt
1 level teaspoon baking soda	½ oz butter/margarine
Approximately 2-3 fl oz hot water	

Method

- 1 Mix all dry ingredients in a bowl.
- 2 Add butter/marg. and rub in.
- 3 Add hot water and mix to a firm dough.
- 4 Divide in two and roll out in 8 inch rounds.
- 5 Cut into quarters
- 6 Bake for 8 minutes at 375°F (180°C)
- 7 Turn over and return to the oven on a low heat.
- 8 Bake for 4 minutes.

Rosanne's Page in Shetland Society of Manawatu News July 2011.

They included photos from their Winterfest June 2011 so some of our members are included. Editor Anne

40th Viking Ball

May 1972 saw the first Viking Ball at the Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall.

It was so successful that an embarrassingly large crowd of 800 had to be spread between the Horticultural Hall and the adjacent Lower Hutt Town Hall so it was obvious there was a demand. The TV presenter Graeme Thompson was MC and the Southern Cross Ceilidh Band provided the music. Jarl Tom Coutts led his squad of twenty-one Vikings into the hall to begin the dancing.

May 2011 Indian Cultural Centre, Kilbirnie, 40th Viking Ball

300 folk attended and danced to the music of Schiehallion Ceilidh Dance Band and Itchycoo Park. Gibby Inkster piped in Jarl Nathan McLachlan and his squad of twenty Vikings plus Junior Jarl, Lawrence Henderson. Russell Pitt was MC for the evening.

The idea of a Viking Ball was the brainchild of Jimmy Irvine who was President of the Society in the 1970s. He was determined to lift the Society from an apparent decline of interest in activities so formed and outfitted a Viking Squad along with a galley that paraded at various new shopping malls, raising money for charity. The culmination of all this activity would be a ball.

In the 1990s changes were made when a dinner was provided before the dancing instead of the traditional supper. Two bands now provided continuous music; the Ceilidh Band playing for the traditional dances and the second band catering for the more modern.

The latest change has been to the Indian Cultural Centre with some interesting moments when Vikings met with Indian culture! Since moving to Kilbirnie the format for the evening has been a first class buffet dinner, provided by Tony O'Brien of "The Pines". At the completion of the Viking parade they raise their axes and give a resounding cheer. A committee member welcomes them and invites the Jarl to address the guests. The first dance is a snowball waltz led by the Vikings.

Nathan McLachlan was the Jarl and among his memories were when Shetland descendent Helen Clark attended Shetland Week and set fire to a Galley in the wharf lagoon that at one point used to be part of the proceedings on ball night.

From Ruth Mainland in the Shetland Society of Wellington Newsletter Winter August 2011.

Congratulations Shetland Society of Wellington on such a great and well-deserved achievement from the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu Inc.

Farewell to Knud Fink-Jensen

Knud Fink-Jensen was the former Danish Consul-General in Wellington and came and spoke to our Club during that time. He and his wife also visited the

Festival of Cultures in Palmerston North. *From: the Danish Church Newsletter.*

BOOK REVIEW

Forest Homes; Scandinavian settlements in New Zealand by G C Petersen published March 1956.

This book tells for the first time the inside story of the largest of the Danish settlements, Mauriceville, in the Wairarapa district. It is, however, much wider in scope than a local history. The author describes, from first hand sources or personal experience, the background of the recruitment of Danes, Norwegians and Swedes under Julius Vogel's Public Works and Immigration policy, their long journey to New Zealand, their settlement in the lonely untouched bush, and how in the face of extraordinary difficulty and hardship they succeeded in their task. Here the reader may experience intimately the perils and pleasures of these folk, visit them in their isolated homes or bush camps, and watch the gradual subjection of the forest and the emergence of a rich farming area as well as the rise of colonial born generations who have made a substantial contribution to New Zealand.

The book is completed with a Memorial List of those who died in the two World Wars.

George Conrad Petersen was born in the Danish settlement of Mauriceville in 1900 and spent most of his youth there. During the period he lived in Mauriceville many of the old original settlers were still living, while the first New Zealand born generation was completing the task their fathers had commenced.

When the general exodus and dispersion of the settlers took place he left the settlement with his parents and studied for and took up the practice of law. He maintained his interest in his Scandinavian kinsfolk and was a Vice-Consul for Denmark.

An Italian cousin was offered this book so he said his cousin would be very interested and I found it extremely interesting especially as my Grandparents were in the Featherston area and my Father could never understand why they never took up their land but perhaps it was like some of the land described in this book. Editor Anne.

AALBORG AKAVIT SNAPS

Scenic Cellars in Taupo have the Aalborg Akavit in stock now and will import as required.

Contact is: Floris Heijdenrijk, Sales Manager, Scenic Cellars, 32 Roberts St, Taupo 3330 Phone (07) 378 5704 email: floris@sceniccellars.co.nz

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 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.

WHISPERING ROADS — Wellington-Napier; a Scandinavian trail edited by Kay Flavell for Friends of Mauriceville Inc., 2011. \$10.00. This booklet was launched at the Scandinavian Festival on Friday 25th February 2011. 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.

Scandinavian Festival Souvenir Coasters: Set of 4 -\$30 + postage. They are made of clear glass the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu Inc. emblem. They are in sets of four.

Please, order books and souvenirs from Anne Odogwu, Scandinavian Club of Manawatu Inc., P O Box 84 – Palmerston North Central, Palmerston North 4440

There is now a standard postage and handling charge of \$4 for each of these books except when bought by an overseas person then we have to check on the price. Please, include this when ordering books and souvenirs.

A Mother's Love

A little something to put things in perspective—

An article in National Geographic several years ago provided an interesting picture of God's Wings. After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage.

One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings.

The loving mother, keenly aware of the impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies.

Then the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body. The mother remained steadfast. She had been willing to die, so those under the cover of her wings would live.

I came across this story in a Catholic magazine and it's so beautiful that I just had to include it.

Farvel
Anne Odogwu
Newsletter Editor