For membership please use our online portal at www.DanishClubBrisbane.org or contact Peter Hansen at admin@DanishClubBrisbane.org | +61 (0) 423 756 394.

Peter Hansen

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Club Events and COVID

After the lockdown in June and a July event, we couldn't predict how it would be until the day before hosting it. We would like to give you all an insight into how the pandemic has affected the club, and in particular, our events.

Staying Open and Extra COVID Work

2020 was the year all events were suddenly put on hold because of COVID. Takeaway food was explored as an alternative to have you all come to the club so we could still connect and you could get some Danish goodies. In 2021 we opened up for events with seating and dine-in as an option despite an increased workload and a cap on numbers. In July this year, we trialled a hybrid option: dine-in and takeaway with an opportunity to go to a nearby park. It was a great success, and we were pleased to have around 150 booked
tickets and walk-ins for shopping without tickets. As this setup was a first-time event, we had to work some things out on the go. For example, we had to change the table setup / dine-in seats compared with the first planned setup, and again when COVID restrictions changed once again.

A Never-Ending Changing Landscape
In 2021 we decided to stay open and be the place where we could still meet with 'our people' while allowing as many people as possible to come to events while adhering to guidelines and imposed restrictions by the Queensland Government. This means, on top of extra workload, we have had to test different setups, and it is hard to be in an environment and plan events when nothing is ever the same, but that's the current situation. I can assure you we all work really hard to ensure the club stays open in whatever capacity possible within our limits. It means we have had to think out of the box, and sometimes it comes with some expected and unexpected factors to deal with, such as making sure our membership database is up to date, to setup a digital sign-in program and so on.

What has been On and Event Cancellations
Since February, we have held many events. It has been an excellent opportunity to shake the bag and try out a few new initiatives and ideas, as nothing we knew would be the exact same no matter how we went about things. You can probably imagine how challenging it is to prepare for an event in a fast-changing environment, being in such a situation and changing things all the time to ensure we follow the law. With lockdown, everything has to be adapted, including communication, planning, shopping for food, numbers etc. (in fact, we were down to a 40 maximum limit on people in the club, lifted to 80 again a short time before the July event). We had to consider a lockdown could happen very quickly and close everything down at any time. Therefore we selected food and planned the event so it could relatively 'easy' be turned into a takeaway only event if we couldn't go ahead with seatings at all.

To sum up, we have had the following events in 2021:

- Fastelavn
- Market Day
- Playgroup
- Shipment Sale (lockdown and change of date)
- Playgroup
- Cafe Danmark (night)
- Play and Family Day
- Casual Sunday
- Cafe Danmark (night)
- OPEN HOUSE Christmas Edition (lockdown and restrictions changes until the day before)
- Sankt Hans POSTPONED (weather/change of date then COVID19 lockdown)

**Membership Information and Database**
COVID resulting in quick changes has also meant direct email communication has become an essential tool in doing so, which suddenly created an urgency around our membership database to ensure we get in touch with all members. Either via email or by phone. Unfortunately, there are still some members who we don't have an email address for and some we can't reach as the contact information is outdated, so please help us ensure your details are correct and tell other members to do the same.

**Bookings and Event Management**
So, with everything COVID has brought, we had to find a way to manage everything in what feels like crazy times. We had to find a way to control numbers, tracking, long queues, payment etc. and continue to stay open. That's why we decided to try out Eventbrite. We did this for our first event in February, and of course, we learned a lot and still are, as no events are the same at the moment. It's not perfect but it has allowed us to start having seated events again. Eventbrite works okay for now, and once people have tried it a couple of times, it is relatively straightforward. Once our new website is up and running, we hope to integrate a booking system, but that's to come.

Like everything else, I believe there are pluses and minuses with everything no matter what we do, and of course, we listen to feedback and hear what some members aren't so happy about with the “new normal”. Still, we have had to do something to move forward during a pandemic. And when we ask ourselves how else it can be done, the options are limited as in almost not existing when having to factor everything in.
It's a significant change for the committee too, and we learn as we go. We have had to work out how we communicate the best way, how do we get our messages across in significantly changing times and quickly. We also have to work out how the booking system works, prepare the setup of information and send out in time etc. which means we have had to come up with new workflows (also as we are many new people in the committee, and we share the tasks and responsibilities between us). Also, so members get information in time (factor in Australia Post as many members only get prints with club news) to allow all to book at the same time and the people preparing the happenings also have a fair chance to order and prepare food in the week up to an event.

If you are not a fan of online bookings, I'm just a phone call or email away. I am happy to take your order, in fact, more than happy to. That hasn't changed.

To Sum Up…

Phew, did anyone say that a pandemic doesn't come with challenges, and uncertainty for that matter? And this is partly on a practical level, and then we have the emotions and how everyone is impacted and affected personally.

We hope that you know we work hard behind the scenes. Not only with events but also other more invisible things such as, for example, a new website with new automated features, review of the constitution, new locks, bookings, long meetings and much more.

As a result, and despite COVID, it's nice to share with you all that we do get more new members, which also has something to do with the fact that we have been trying out different events. Being able to come on a weekend day and during the daytime has shown to be valued by the many Danes in Queensland as they now can be part of the club activities throughout the year, also even they might not live close by.

To ease the workload a little moving forward, we might even try to host more events without food, as food creates another level to deal with. Of course, we are aware and will try to loosen up as we go as things get more accessible, but we simply had to find a way to open up the club again with one consistent
We respect your opinions, listen to what you say and take feedback with us - we also hope you respect the work that we do and appreciate the many hours that with put into the work for the club, all as volunteers.

If you wish, please click here to see a more detailed list of what COVID has meant for the management of the club.

**Annual General Meeting**

After doubling up on events in June and July and dealing with new COVID challenges, lockdown and event changes, the focus will now be on the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which means that after a couple of crazy months and the AGM falling early in September (**Sunday 12th**), August will be event-free.

We will send out a separate email with information specific to the AGM later in August.

For those only receiving newsletters and messages by post (as in we don't have a connected email address), we will try to tie it in with the September mail.

**Committee Change**

Stine Wood stepped down from the committee in July so we would like to thank her for all the work she has been involved with and for the support she has given to the club. If time allows, she will continue participating in a volunteer capacity. Thank you Stine.

*Mathilde Bach Stougaard*
HIGHLIGHTS

OPEN HOUSE Christmas Edition (July)
With COVID forcing us to change the original Christmas in July event and with many factors uncertain until the day before, the event turned into an OPEN HOUSE Christmas Edition,
which was a great success!

Thank you all for coming and contributing to our Event. Lovely to have stallholders - Boda Silver, Sol Threads and The Bead Lady. We also thank Britt’s Organic for coming in to the club on a weekend day for all of us to enjoy some baked goods. Thanks to Hansen’s Æbleskiver for baking more than 300 pieces of Æbleskiver for us all to enjoy.

Also, a special thanks to the team behind Fable and Katrine Fox for sponsoring Fable (the vegan mushroom product used for the vegan/vegetarian sandwich option). Keep an eye out for a story about this food business in the future. If you would like to know more, check out their website here.

Photo credit: Madeleine Dahl Hansen, Hansen’s Æbleskiver, Randi Hammer and Boda Silver.

EVENTS 2021

As a general guideline, most events hosted by the committee will fall on the 4th weekend (either Friday/Saturday/Sunday) every month, with some exceptions throughout the year.

We try to have the ‘shop’ open at all events so you can buy lollies, chocolate and different drinks etc. and at some events it will be possible to buy cheese, herring and other goods (certain products are for members only).

When possible the baker (Britt's Organic) and other independent businesses will be at the Club.

UPCOMING EVENT DATES

September - Sunday 12th: (SAVE THE DATE!)

- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

More information to come via email and please read more under the heading 'News from the Committee' above.
October - weekend 22nd/23rd/24th:
Event / Play and Family Day (TBC)

November - weekend 26th/27th/28th:
Event / Play and Family Day (TBC)

December - Sunday 12th:
Julefest (no Play and Family Day)

Scandi Christmas Market:
SAVE THE DATE AND MORE INFO TO COME!
Saturday 4th December 2021 | 6pm-9pm
Oakleigh State School, Ashgrove
(An event organised by the Swedes)

Heimdal's 150th Anniversary 2022:
If you would like to get involved and help out with the upcoming event in one way or another, please get in touch.

We would like you to and encourage everyone to book prior to an event as it makes the planning easier. It means that you won’t miss out on food and you can secure a spot, especially now that we have to adhere to COVID restrictions.

As a member, you get first access to events and depending on the event, you are welcome to bring friends (information vary based on each event). Please help ensure they sign the guest book upon arrival.

Of course, we welcome walk-ins too, but then you have to be prepared to wait in the line and risk missing out on food. Worst case scenario is that we can’t let you in if we have reached the limit. We try to have some extra food at events but to ensure food, please book in advance as required depending on the event setup.

If you come for shopping only, then you don't need to book an attendee ticket but be prepared to wait in line before you can get in if we have a full house.

More information to come about event booking via email via Eventbrite - at the moment we
are open for bookings approximately two weeks before an event and close again approximately one week before the event (dates may vary).

We encourage everyone to become members and join the Danish community but we also understand that you might want to come to visit and see what the club is all about first. Get in touch for more information as we welcome guests too but to use our ongoing services, we would like you to become a member.

Due to the current COVID circumstances, we are working hard to ensure the club stays open in whatever capacity possible and we hope for your understanding in these challenging times. It requires a lot of extra work and extra hands.

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**VOLUNTEERING ★**

**Volunteers at the OPEN HOUSE Christmas Edition**

Welcome our new volunteer, Kaylene-Ann Hennessy-Rasmussen (pictured to the far right). Pictured is also, from the left: Nana Starbæk Nielsen, Julie Winther and Tove Vine (we are all volunteers and Julie is also Secretary this year). A big thanks to everyone who has helped out to make this event happen - we couldn't do it without you! 👌 If we count children, partners and everybody who helped in in one way or another before and during the event, then we have been just a bit more than 20 people involved. Not to forget, also having fun, chatting, eating good food and some stayed around for a bit longer afterwards... THANK YOU ALL 😊
We are **always seeking to engage with volunteers** in whatever possible way and if you would like to contribute to the community and have a great time with everyone involved, please get in touch.

The club is **open for anyone to host events for the community** and we would love to hear from you if you are interested or have any ideas to contribute with and put your hands to work.

It's a **great opportunity** to speak Danish, get to learn the language, exchange stories, eat some good food and get to know other like-minded people.

"One of the greatest gift you can give is your time."

– Unknown
We applaud an incredible Danish couple

Many of you know Lone Schmidt and Søren Højmark from their time as committee members (President and Treasurer too) and being the driving force behind many events at the club. We would like to pay a tribute to them so here you can read what they see as the highlights of their involvement over the years.

Most memorable event – fun and food, floods and festivals, cafes and concerts. I’ll get back to them later: here’s the story about Labour Day 2 May 2016 or Demolition Day. For some time the committee hummed and hawed about replacing the ceiling; water damage, broken tiles, torn and discoloured surfaces, crooked rails, but was it worth $20,000? In the end we decided to go ahead and to save on additional costs a team of volunteers would remove the old tiles and put out sheeting to protect the floors. Early start at 8 am, but Alan and Peter got in there first and had done a huge job before the rest of team even arrived. The skip filled up quickly during the morning and two trailers later rolled off to the dump. The dust was overwhelming at times.

Our electrician also came in and removed all wiring. The ancient and very bulky airconditioner sitting on top of the store rooms also came down and out, with old-fashioned ingenuity and a good bit of luck. We also pulled out all the old airconditioner ducting (to the dismay of the installers of the new system who had expected to reuse it).
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All this was achieved thanks to a demolition team of 12, with additional helpers coming and going throughout the day. And look at the floors, no tradies were going to scratch them.

The end result was the ceiling you see at the club today, with the elevated central section, and a new airconditioning system for the open hall area. A great achievement.

Written by: Lone and Søren

Thank you Lone and Søren for your many years of commitment and for sharing this knowledge and experience with us all 😊👏

Want to share a story or experience about anything and everything? We would love to hear from you...

IN THE NEWS AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- "Familiesammenføring: Vi punkterer de mest sejlivede myter!" (article by Danes Worldwide)

- "Danish children struggle to learn their vowel-filled language – and this changes how adult Danes interact" (article by The
• Scandinavian Film Festival
  https://scandinavianfilmfestival.com/
  Brisbane: 15 July - 4 August

SAYINGS, FUN FACTS AND MORE 😊

**TO GO CUCUMBER (at gå agurk)**

"Some Danes are short-tempered, but they do not go berserk or bananas, they "go cucumber"."

Skjalden

MEMBERS

**New Members**

As of 28 July 2021 we have 251 members (Single or Family) in our club, of these so far 92 have paid for 2021-22 memberships.

**Single Memberships:**
30 paid for 2021-22

**Family Memberships:**
62 paid for 2021-22

**Membership Information**

Currently the membership year goes from June to July and at the moment you can see your membership details at the beginning of the e-news. We are working behind the scenes on a new website including a new membership system so please keep an eye out for changes to come in the future...
Member Benfits

- First access to events etc.
  (we accommodate for members first due to limited spaces etc.).
- You can buy imported Danish alcohol
- You can book the club for special events.
- Participation in the Play and Family Days.
  (join the Facebook group [here](#) to find out more)

Special deals and offers for members

In July we were lucky to receive a **FREE DOUBLE PASS** to the Scandinavian Festival. We quickly made a little competition on our social media channels and the lucky member to win the tickets was Natascha Ohlhoff. Congrats!!! 😎

Please click [here](#) to see all offers listed (more to come, we are just getting started). Get in touch if you would like your business or something else on the list.

**Call for action:**
Are you a superstar who is able to arrange deals for all members to benefit from? We would love to hear from you! It's a great way to get involved...

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**Thinking of becoming a member?**

"**The Danish Club is a members club for members run by members**"

If you would like to know more about what we do, of course you are welcome to visit and see what it's all about. Give it a few times as we do welcome guests (please write yourself in the guest book upon arrival). If you continue to use our services, we would like you to become a member and support the club in solidarity with all the Danes Down Under to contribute to the community.

Please read more on the website [here](#) and click on 'membership' to sign up
and become a member. Please contact Peter Hansen (admin@DanishClubBrisbane.org) if you need help or have any questions about memberships.

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**DET DANSKE LAND I BILLEDER MED MERE...**
**(The Danish Country in Pictures with more...)**

![Image](image_url)

*Source: VisitDenmark*

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**CONTACT**

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions, feedback or anything else on your heart.

**Phone:** +61 (0) 437 612 913  
**Email:** contact@DanishClubBrisbane.org

**General Enquiries**

**Memberships (and current website):**
Please contact Peter Hansen  
(admin@DanishClubBrisbane.org | +61 (0) 423 756 394)

**Rentals and venue bookings:**
Please contact Maj-Britt McAlister
(rental@DanishClubBrisbane.org)

The Committee

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See you at the club...

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