

## Letter from Toowoomba

Hi Heimdal,

It was a joy to participate in the Toowoomba Danes evening at the Toowoomba Jazz Club on Saturday March 13th. Judging by the number of people present and the amount of laughter, a great time was had by all. The Heimdal crew did an excellent job of making everyone feel welcome and extremely well fed. The selection from the bar was not too bad either.

I have a very long connection with the Danish Association Heimdal. Some of your older members might remember my parents Hanne and Preben Hansen who originally lived in MacGregor. My father was Vice President together with Erling Nielsen (President) in the seventies and my mother was the editor of the newspaper. It was typed, fordigraph printed and collated in our home each month by a team of three couples including the Hansens, Niensens as well as Doris and Boris Christensen.. The kids had the job of attaching the address labels to each envelope while the parents worked in the rumpus room below.

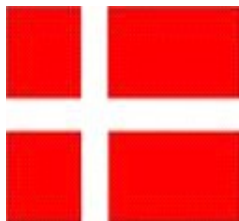
We came to Australia (actually from Uddevalla, Sweden) in 1964 and became members in 1965. During my growing up years I attended every imaginable event held. These included the traditional festivals celebrated each year; monthly dances to a variety of dance bands; the Warana Parade floats; Heimdal weekly Bingo; Bus Tours to the Coomera Hotel (now there's a laugh for you); etc. My sister Nina was crowned Miss Heimdal in 1977 and represented Heimdal in the Miss All Nations Quest during the Warana Festival. During the seventies it was decided to form a Youth Group at Heimdal. This of course all took place at the Cleveland Street Premises. The Youth Group was very popular and had a membership of around 40. Many of us had grown up together, as young families migrated to Australia at a similar time and mixed together socially.

We were very much involved when fire ripped through the Cleveland St premises in the 1970s. I remember picking up the phone and hearing the message "Heimdal is Burning!"

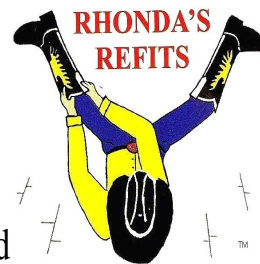
Eventually we all moved from home and I worked in Denmark in Nyborg for a year. We have always continued to speak Danish at home and I still speak it fluently even though I was four years old when we arrived. I returned to Australia to eventually become a teacher. I became a school Principal and am now on the Darling Downs outside Toowoomba. My Australian husband and I moved to this area from South West Queensland to be closer to family. After all these years, the family (now extended) still comes together for Christmas with all the traditions and trimmings. I love Australia and am proud to call it my home but my heritage is still very important to me and something that I have passed on to my sons.

I hope that future events can be arranged with the Brisbane Heimdal members. There is so much to see and do on the Downs - you would have a ball!

Best wishes Ulla-Birgitte Sheraton (nee Hansen)



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