

From the pen of Per Anders:

The Swedish church abroad is changing all over the world. One positive change is that members living abroad will be represented in some of the decision organs of the Church of Sweden. There will be diminishing support for churches close to Sweden like Oslo, Copenhagen and Skagen. This is done so that more support can be given to churches further away like a new congregation in Florida and the new work being done in Phuket and China. The church in Melbourne is safe for the time being as it fills a very important function for Scandinavians who live far away from their homeland, family and friends.

BAZAAR:

The Bazaar was a great success again and despite the tough economic climate the income was slightly larger than 2008. Thank you to all who made it such a great week end.

Working Bee: There will be a working bee on 8th May with start at 9am. We will aim to do some painting outside and other maintenance work where it is needed.

AGM:

The Swedish Church will hold its Annual General Meeting on 7th March 2010 after the church service. If you have any queries or suggestions in regards to election of new board members please contact Elsbeth Doolan on phone 9379 1632.

Tisdagsträffen:

In March we will have an excursion to Flinders by bus instead of the normal lunch. The bus leaves the church at 10am and we will visit the artist Eva Nauckhoff for afternoon tea.

Volunteer thank you:

A warm thank you to Jessika who worked during the annual leave period, Katarina and Sven-Arne for work in September and October, Monika and Evan in November and December and Margareta in the same period. Ulla worked during January and also during the Bazaar and Rune who put his efforts into the garden and maintenance. Thore and Barbro are the last in this wave of volunteers and are here until April. You are all very important for the smooth running of the church and mean a lot for the congregation.

Membership 2010:

It is getting around to the time to renew or start your membership for 2010. As a member you pay less in the shop on most stock, get reduced prices for events and above all contribute to the running of Toorak House and help support Scandinavians that, for different reasons, have needs in Australia and New Zealand. You also get Horisonten in your letterbox 4 times per year.

The new annual membership is \$20/students, \$35/pensioners, \$45/single and \$60/family. Please use the form in this issue for your renewal.

John Martin:

‘The life is not longest that lasts the longest’ is a quote that highlights the life of a dear friend and stout supporter of the Swedish Church, John Marin who sadly passed away on 17th January 2010. John is missed by many in the Scandinavian community and all who knew him appreciated his great love of life and ability to bring out the best in others. John was fascinated by the old Nordic languages and the culture of the Nordic countries, and he carried this enthusiasm further in his work at Melbourne University. John leaves a big hole in the community but we have to carry on with the inspiration you have left us. Rest in peace John.

