

Swedes Down Under Inc
Annual Report 2010

2010 AGM was held 28 February 2010 at the Danish Hall in Brisbane. There were 15 members at the meeting.

The committee elected for 2010 Swedes Down Under was:

President:	Yvonne Lindquist
Vice President:	Elisabeth Johansson
Treasurer:	Nils Lundmark
Secretary:	Kristina Hedin
Committee Members:	Helena Alberg, Torbjörn Friman, P-O Nilsson, Anne Nilsson, Jan Molin

The President was elected for a sixth consecutive year, as there were no other members who had shown interest in taking this position.

Due to the Constitution of Swedes Down Under a President may sit for four consecutive years and then be replaced.

The members accepted their positions in the 2010 committee, in support of Swedes Down Under to continue operation.

2010 has greatly been driven by Vice President, when the President had indicated that she would like to step down and not be fully involved 2010.

First of all, a big thank you to those committee members who have been present at the events during the year and who has carried out their tasks in full capacity. Some committee members have been unable to fully put in their time, as they have demanding full-time jobs and were also required to work overseas.

Committee meetings during 2010 committee were held:

2010: 10 March, 2 June, 11 August, 7 September, 8 November

2011: 2 February discussions about upcoming AGM and recruitment of committee members and SDU's future
7 March meeting with potential committee members

The events during 2010 in Swedes Down Under:

14/4 a movie night at the Danish Club – the 2nd part of Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy "The Girl Who Played With Fire"

The planned Walpurgis evening 1/5 had to be cancelled as we did not have a suitable venue

19/6 Midsummer celebrations at Rochedale State School. This year, we moved the activities closer to the hall which worked a lot better. Swedish/Danish/Australian band Kupaleja played whilst we danced around the Midsummer pole. There were in total around 80 people (including children) booked for the Herring Table.

21/7 another movie night at the Danish Club – the 3rd part of Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy "The Girl Who Kicked The Hornets Nest"

28/8 Crayfish party at the Finish Hall. Andrew from the Sunshine Coast was happy to cook our crayfish for yet another year and does this very well. There were around 75 members at the Crayfish party.

29/9 movie night at the Danish Club – Snabba Cash. It was at least 25 people who came to see the movie and it was a pleasant evening. Although there were very mixed feelings about the type of movie shown as it was violent. Some people really enjoyed it whilst others were very disappointed. Perhaps we need to focus on more positive and pleasant movies.

30/10 The Moose Hunt – it is a popular event and this year 25 people were booked in at the Rifle Range, whilst a few more joined us for the traditional pea & ham soup and (arrack) punch.

11/12 Swedes Down Unders Christmas Dinner was held at the Finish Hall. As usual, all the traditional dishes had been covered. There were around 65 people booked in for this event. Santa Claus was again a great hit and very appreciated, as well as the Scandinavian Choir's St Lucia "train"
The Swedish School had earlier in the day held a Christmas Party for the children and families.

During the year, there have also been regular golf days about once a month. There is a group of around 15-20 players.

The 2010 year has been a little staggering, as we had a President who wanted to be less involved, some of the committee members have been away during periods of the year and even though everyone have been greatly appreciated with regards to their efforts – there has somewhat been a lack of enthusiasm to continue the club in it's traditional operation.

The 2010 committee has made a huge effort in contacting Swedes Down Under's members and previous members in an attempt to recruit suitable members for the committee. This work has paid off and there are now nominations for all positions in the committee.

It is exciting to have more than 40 members present at 2011 AGM and AGM Dinner. The purpose of this is to bring the Swedes Down Under club together and to inform members of what it means to be in the committee of the club.

I hope that the new committee will continue to run the Swedes Down Under Club in its traditional purpose and that “the spark” of enthusiasm will be ignited once again and spread to all the members of the club.

The participation and “a helping hand” from members at our events are important and greatly appreciated. The more we are helping out – the more fun we can all have. This will also ensure a continued operation of the Swedes Down Under Club whose purpose is to create friendly relations between Swedish people – both residents and visitors of Queensland.

We maintain some Swedish traditions and aim to pass some of our Swedish heritage on to the younger generations.

Also a big thank you to our Webmaster, Michael Ahlberg, who continues to do a great job with Swedes Down Under’s web page.

Unfortunately, like previous year, there are several committee members resigning this year.

Yvonne Lindquist resigned from her position of President 31 January. She had then held the position of President for almost six years.

Nils Lundmark - Treasurer 2009 and 2010, works overseas a lot and it is difficult to hold a position in the SDU committee when this is required

Torbjörn Friman has been in the SDU committee for many years 5 or 6 years. He would like to have a break.

P-O and Anne Nilsson agreed to join the committee in support for 2010. They have in the past been active in SDU, but feel that it is a bit tiring. They also like to spend a longer period of the year in Denmark and Sweden.

Jan Molin has been a more active member in SDU during the last two years. He joined the committee in 2010. Jan is moving back to Sweden in a week’s time, so we will have to say good bye to him.

The new 2011 SDU committee are:

President:

Elisabeth “Bettan” Johansson: was a member of SDU’s committee in 2006 and 2007. Then it was time for a break. In 2010 joined the committee again in support for continued operation. She was then given the Vice President position. During 2010, she has acted President, when the President 2010, wanted to take a step back and has been away for periods of the year. Elisabeth has lived in Australia permanently since 1993 and has dual Citizenship. Work experience includes Finance, Administration and Recruitment.

Vice President:

Sophia Åhlin: Sophia is 25 years old and studies a Master of Sociology at UQ. She has been active for many years within organisations in Sweden, including the student organisation and a political organisation. Sophia has a pleasant and positive personality and communicates well. At the end of 2011, she will apply for permanent residency in Australia. Sophia is an employee of IKEA, and is reported to be a very well liked member of the staff.

Treasurer:

Monica Ylitalo: Monica has lived in Brisbane for a few years. She moved to Australia when she regained contact with a friend from her younger years – Tom. They are now married. When Monica lived in Sweden, she worked with Finance and Administration. She was also a member of the Swedes Down Under committee in 2009.

Secretary:

Kristina Hedin: Kristina has lived in Australia for many years and is married to an Australian. They have 3 children in the high teenagers up to around 20’s. Kristina and her family have lived in a few countries over the years. She has been an appreciated Secretary in SDU during 2010.

Kristina is a member of the Swedish Church committee and Scandinavian Choir

Assistant Secretary:

Ylva Bohm: Ylva has also lived in Australia for many years and is married to an Australian. They have 2 children in the late teenagers. When the children were younger, Ylva was active in the Swedish School and part of the School committee. Ylva and Kristina have known each other for many years, from the time when they both lived in Tasmania.

Committee members:

Helena Alberg (Tuominen): has been a member of SDU committee for a few years now. She is an appreciated member – a pensioner with loads of energy. Helena is a great cook and bakes for our events. She has always put “100%” in. Helena has said that she will continue as a committee member if she is needed and we think she is definitely needed. Helena has lived in Australia for many years and in her Nordic House for 34 years. She has 3 grown up children and four grandchildren that she likes to spend time with. Helena is also a member of the Swedish Church committee and the Scandinavian Choir.

Victoria Cain: Was recently elected President of the Swedish School, but also wants to be a member of the Swedes Down Under committee, as she feels the close cooperation between the two organisations is important. Victoria is married to an Australian and they have two children who will be 8 and 12 years old this year. They have lived both in Sweden and in Australia. Victoria is a cheerful and enthusiastic person with lots of ideas.

Charlotta (Lotta) Beckelin: Lotta recently moved to Brisbane with her Swedish family. The children are 11 and 15 years old. The family has previously lived in Singapore for many years, where Lotta was active within the SVEA organisation. She worked as a teacher in Sweden, but is currently studying a course in Administration.

Thomas Hansson: Migrated to Australia with his parents when he was 7 years old. Thomas’ parents have been members of the Swedes Down Under Club for many years. Thomas speaks fluent Swedish and English and he lived in Sweden for one year recently. He belongs to the younger generation Swedes Down Under and we are happy to have him on board in the committee. Thomas is experienced in Graphic Design and will be part of drawing up the Swedes Down Under Club’s Newsletter.

Kajsa Rylander: Kajsa has been a member of Swedes Down Under for a few years now. She came to Australia to study Marketing in 2005. Kajsa met her Australian husband and stayed in Brisbane. She continued her studies at QUT and graduated from a Bachelor in Business (Marketing) in 2008. Kajsa works at QUT as an International Marketing Communications Officer. She has also spent time in USA and England as a language student.

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