



# Australian Association (Norway) Newsletter

Organisation No. 892 048 002

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## Message from the AAN patron Ambassador Sharyn Minahan

The Australian community in Norway has several positive achievements to look back on in 2008 - the development of an agenda of activities for the AAN established in late 2007 and the creation of a Norwegian branch of ABIE in early 2008. I trust that these two groups are providing a useful means for those members of the Australian community who wish to do so to connect with fellow Australians and pursue common interests.



The Embassy in Denmark has had a busy year (and next year will be even more so) but our ability to keep in touch with things happening in Norway has been diminished by the reduction in the number of Australia-based staff as a result of budget cuts following the change of Government. Regrettably this means that Embassy staff can travel to Norway less frequently. We hope this downsizing will not be permanent, as Australia and Norway share many policy positions and there is scope for the two countries to work more closely in many fields.

This was very apparent in conversations between the Australian Foreign Minister, the Hon Stephen Smith MP, and his Norwegian counterparts, Mr Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Erik Solheim, Minister for International Development, during Mr Smith's brief visit to Oslo to attend the Convention on Cluster Munitions Signing Conference in the first week of December. The Minister signed the Convention for Australia (press release available on the DFAT website). Regrettably, as the Minister's visit to Oslo came at the end of a multi-country trip, it was very short - only slightly over a day - and did not allow time to organise an event with the Australian community. However, the visit was very worthwhile from a government-to-government perspective.

As you all prepare to spend a white winter in Norway - or perhaps to seek some holiday sunshine elsewhere - I should like to take this opportunity to wish all the members of the AAN - and indeed, all Australians in Norway - a very happy and healthy festive season and all the best for 2009.

Sharyn Minahan  
Ambassador -Australian Embassy

## Australia Day 2009

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. Dr Jekyll's Pub

Australia Day 2009 will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>. Obviously this is not the 26<sup>th</sup>, but we are working on the assumption that most people would prefer a Saturday rather than a Monday night. Tickets will be going on sale before the event and more information will be coming shortly. Pass the word around!

## Upcoming Events Tentative 2009 Calendar

Jan 24 - **Australia Day**  
Dr Jekyll's Pub

Feb 8 - **Family X-Country Skiing**

Mar 17 - **Seminar on your rights as an Aussie in Norway (AAN Members only)**

Mar 26 - **Pub Night**  
Forest & Brown

Apr 25 - **ANZAC Day**

May 6 - **AAN AGM**

May 28 - **Quiz night**

Jun 18<sup>th</sup> - **Wine & Cheese night**

Jul 16 - **Summer drinks**

Aug 23 - **Family BBQ**

Sep 26 - **AFL Grand Final**

Oct 15 - **Networking Night**

Nov 3 - **Melbourne Cup night**

Dec 10 - **Pub night**  
Forest & Brown

## New Sponsorship Arrangement

AAN has concluded a sponsorship arrangement with True Blue Wines for 2009.

This deal will provide wines for various AAN events through 2009, allowing us to provide favorable prices for our members. True Blue will also help us with organising wine tastings and other wine related functions throughout the year.

True Blue wines is a family business specialising in promoting smaller Australian Wine labels, from the more unknown wine producing areas of Australia. True Blue Wines focuses on lower volume, single vineyard producers.



True Blue Owner, Jarle Johansen worked in a winery in the Great Southern Area of Western Australia after completing his university studies. Upon his return to Norway, he realised that wine from small producers was non-existing in the Norwegian marketplace. The True blue team, being interested in fine wines has developed a niche in promoting small wineries with a personality for people who appreciate the passion that goes into making outstanding wines.

AAN is pleased to be affiliated with a Norwegian Company exclusively associated with Australian products and we look forward to developing this relationship over the coming year.

## Aussie rules - Oslo Trolls Celebrate first home game with big win

The Oslo Trolls have celebrated the first ever game of Aussie Rules Footy in Norway with a thumping win over the Karlstad Dragons back in August. The newly formed Trolls defeated the Dragons 218-63.

It was a historic day of Aussie Rules Footy, which coincided with the inaugural AAN Family BBQ attended by over 100 people.

For those interested in playing in the future, more information will be sent before training re-commences next summer.

Oslo Trolls 33.20 (218) defeated Karlstad Dragon 9.9 (63)  
Best on field. T.Pritchard  
Goalscorers - Karlstad - D. Miller 2, K. Anderson 2, J. Pareigis 1,  
A. Östberg 1, M. Ewald 1, D. Craig 1, S. Berger 1  
Oslo - T. Pritchard 7, D. Foletta 7, J. Earles 5, J. Harris 4, K.  
Jansen 3, Lachie 2, N. Roxby 2, A. Morphett 2



## Business Networking Evening

The first joint event between AAN and ABIE was held on Thur Oct 30<sup>th</sup> at UECC's Headquarters in Skøyen. The event was attended by around 30 people and we were entertained by local Australian Comedian, Andy Taffs. ([www.andytaffs.com](http://www.andytaffs.com)). Based on the success of the evening, we plan to hold two or three such events in 2009.

## AAN Committee Announcements

Unfortunately AAN Vice President, Howard Burvill and his family will be relocating to Australia at the end of this year. AAN would like to thank Howard for all his hard work in this role in the time leading up to and since AAN's inception. The AAN committee has appointed current committee member, Shane West to fill the role of Vice President until our AGM next year.

## Australia the Movie

Australia, the latest movie by Baz Lurman will be opening in Oslo on Dec 26<sup>th</sup>.

'Australia' is a romantic action-adventure set in the country's northern outback prior to World War II, centres on an English aristocrat, Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman), who finds herself unexpectedly fighting to save a cattle station the size of Belgium.

When local cattle barons plot to take her land, she reluctantly joins forces with a rough cattle drover (Hugh Jackman) to drive 1500 head of cattle across northern Australia's breathtaking, yet brutal landscape. Love ensues, but they must still face the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese forces that had attacked Pearl Harbour only months earlier.

A large number have indicated they would be interested in getting together to see Australia on the opening day at Colosseum, Majorstua. Please get in touch if you would like to join.



## Wine Review – Virgin Hills

“... the greatest red wine you’ve never heard of.”

In future issues, we will try and review some Australian Wines not normally available in your local Vinmonopolet. Ordering these is relatively easy and often represents better value relative to Australian prices than the standard Vinmonopolet selection.

**Producer:** Virgin Hills

**State and Region:** Victoria, Macedon Ranges

**Country:** Australia

**Colour:** Deep, Clear Red Colour.

**Bouquet:** Complex aromas of ripe Cabernet, particularly Blackcurrant, also cedary oak, blackcurrant leaves and herbaceous.

**Palate:** Soft and approachable, fullbodied, nice acidity and tannins evolving, ripe blackcurrant and spicy oak finish. (2002 Vintage).

**Review:** Elegant Australian red, whilst ready to drink now, it will reward cellaring at least 15 years. (2002 Vintage) (Prime picks at monopoly - 08.03.07)

**Serves with:** Nice dishes of red meats, including moose or deer.

**Grapes:** Cabernet sauvignon, shiraz, merlot, malbec

**Price:** kr 276

**Bestillings list nr:** 48448

From Aperitif magazine. <http://www.aperitif.no/index.db?id=101281>



- This Australian ICON is cheaper to buy in Norway than in Australia (until end of December 2008).
- James Halliday also rated Virgin Hills 2002 at 90 points.
- You can order this wine through this link directly from the monopoly and have it delivered to your local Vinmonopolet Outlet . [www.vinmonopolet.no/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/store-vmp-Site/no\\_NO/-/NOK/v\\_PerformSearch-Prod;pgid=PDdlpmopVUk000EliDawO9sM0000aWhKaNz?query=virgin+Hills](http://www.vinmonopolet.no/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/store-vmp-Site/no_NO/-/NOK/v_PerformSearch-Prod;pgid=PDdlpmopVUk000EliDawO9sM0000aWhKaNz?query=virgin+Hills)
- ALSO NOTE: 1992 and 1998 Vintages are ONLY available in NORWAY (great idea to send back home to relatives etc.).

## ARE YOU AN AAN MEMBER?????

If not you are missing out on being part of the only Social Club in Norway dedicated to Australians , their Families and Friends.

AAN organising regular events throughout the year, so show your support and join up

## Ullfryd

AAN member John Suffren started a business importing Australian woollen products to Norway some years ago. This month, he has relaunched his website.

**ullfryd**  
Kvalitetsprodukter i ull

ull er en fryd både å  
ligge på og å ha på seg



The objective of ullfryd is to supply the finest quality woollen products from the world's best manufacturers (primarily from Australia) to our customers in Norway and other areas of Scandinavia.

Ullfryd supplies top quality Pure new wool Australian bedding products including Woollen underblankets, Woollen quilts (dunas), Woollen "reading" pillows

All ullfryd products have been carefully selected for their quality and their benefit to a healthier life style. The products are not presently available from any other retail or online outlet in Norway or Scandinavia.

For more information or to visit the webshop, see [www.ullfryd.no](http://www.ullfryd.no)

## Norwegian Aussie of the Month

**AAN talks to Shane West about how he came to live in Norway, what he likes about it and what he misses about home. (by Damien Shortis)**

It's no surprise that Shane West didn't wake up one morning and decide he would move to Norway. In fact, he says, prior to coming he would have struggled to point out Norway on a map. No, as the story usually goes there was a Norwegian female involved. Shane met Margrethe, also a student at Latrobe University, in 2001.

By the time Shane could correctly pronounce Margrethe's name, things were getting pretty serious and she was able to convince him to move to Norway. "I sold everything I owned to get here," says Shane "I'd just bought a new car which I had to sell at a huge loss, and some bloke bought my whole CD collection, about 200 CD's, for \$80!"

Shane finished his degree in Oslo, while Margrethe lived in Haugesund. Being a student in Norway, without the generous handouts thrown at the Norwegians, was difficult. But Shane was able to scrape through and get a job in Oslo.

"Once I started earning money and got my own circle of friends I really started enjoying the lifestyle in Norway. A lot of people whinge about the weather but I actually like it. I try to get out and ski a bit in winter and I love the long days in summer," he says.

You can tell Shane has been here too long when he rattles off the classic Norgie line, justifying the crap weather with the fact that there are four seasons.

Although he loves it here, there are things he misses, like going to see Carlton at the G – beer in one hand, pie in the other. He tried to get into the 'sport' here, but says the atmosphere just isn't the same. He also misses going out regularly to eat, something which, as we all know, is not really an option here. And of course, he misses a good beer – though now he can get VB in Oslo there's no real need to go home.

Shane says since coming here he's become more proud of being Australian. "I really notice the common sense of humour that aussies have and I love having a few aussie mates in Oslo to share that with".

Six years after moving to Norway, Shane and Margrethe have had their first child and don't look like moving back anytime soon.

**Name:** Shane West  
**Age:** 34  
**Occupation:** Market analyst  
**Been in Norway since:** 2002  
**Misses most:** Aussie rules, good beer





#### Upcoming Events

2009 Calendar will be distributed shortly, or see [www.abie.no](http://www.abie.no)

OK, so what is ABIE? Australian Business in Europe? Well, it depends. Let's just say it's a loose grouping of organisations with interests in Australia, Europe and business. It's not far from the mark to talk about aiming at "business opportunities through social networking". But whether the general aim is business to or from Australia is not so clear. And what is Europe anyway?

Currently there are branches, large and small, in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and the UK. It would seem that the French and Italian groups have a predominance of members with interest in business to Aus, the UK group, perhaps typically, have removed "in Europe" from their name, and the others have varying areas and levels of activity, some of them quietly impressive.

The Norwegian branch was started and officially registered this year by the dynamic Peter Vaughan, before he was transported off to another lifestyle in Jakarta. To say that his move left a gap is no understatement, but there is little doubt that there is a need for an ABIE group in Norway, and that we can grow from a relatively modest start. Current membership is 14.

The initial and major event of the year was a guided tour and lunch on board the cruise ship "Costa Mediterranea", organised by Mr Cruise, Peter Tonn. On that well-attended and very successful day, we were entertained with a talk by eminent guest speaker Aneurin Hughes, ex-EU ambassador to both Norway and Australia. The other event this year, also very popular, was the joint ABIE/AAN networking evening at UECC, where stand-up comedian Andy Taffs gave his entertaining view of life and the Jante laws in this part of the world.

At the recent Annual General Meeting in London of the European ABIE, many and varied approaches to "events" were discussed. Obviously there are differences between groups with 1200 members and heavy sponsorship, as in the UK, and those of us in the outposts, but we intend to draw on each other's experiences, to continue comparing notes, and to cooperate.

ABIE Norway aims at fulfilling a slightly different need from the predominantly social aspect of AAN, but social it is nevertheless. Next year's program for ABIE Norway will be a mix of guest speakers and "appropriate" gatherings. In the next few weeks, we will add relevant content to the [www.abie.no](http://www.abie.no) website, but please feel free to send any comments or suggestions to [chair@abie.no](mailto:chair@abie.no).

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!  
Barry Spradbrow, on behalf of ABIE Norway

## Notices

**Vegemite** - Vegemite is normally available at Jacobs supermarket in Nordstrand. Around kr32 per jar. Word has it that Centra at Colosseum has it as well, in the sauce section.

**Cycling** - For those interested in cycling, we have a regular , mainly Aussie, training group departing each Sunday morning on a 60km training ride. We are also planning to take part as an Australian group in some of the bike races held around Norway in the 2009 summer. Even though it is winter, we are still trying for the occasional ride and will start regularly again once the roads are clear. If you are interested in joining, please contact Simon White ([simon.patrick.white@gmail.com](mailto:simon.patrick.white@gmail.com))

**Assistance for events** – AAN provides a program of events through 2009. If you would be interested in helping in planning or organisation, please contact an AAN committee member. Also, if you have ideas for events for the Aussie community here, please let us know!

**Tell us about your Norway experiences:** We would like to include some articles from our members in future newsletters. If you have any experiences , stories or suggestions that you would like to tell everyone about, pass them on and we will include them in a future edition.

### Embassy Registration

Australians based in Norway are encouraged to register their details with the Australian Embassy in Denmark. <https://www.orao.dfat.gov.au/orao/weborao.nsf/homepage?Openpage>

## Useful Links

"Aussies in Oslo" on Facebook.	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2348809660">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2348809660</a>
Australian Embassy Denmark	<a href="http://www.denmark.embassy.gov.au/cpgn/home">http://www.denmark.embassy.gov.au/cpgn/home</a>
Oslo Aliens Cricket Club	<a href="http://www.alienscricketclub.no">www.alienscricketclub.no</a>
Aussie Rules in Oslo – Oslo Trolls	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2303767127">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2303767127</a>
Nam Fah – The best Thai take away in Oslo	<a href="http://www.nam-fah.com">www.nam-fah.com</a>
Oslo Rugby Club	<a href="http://www.rugby.no/oslo/">http://www.rugby.no/oslo/</a>
The international Southern Cross Group	<a href="http://www.southern-cross-group.org/">http://www.southern-cross-group.org/</a>
Scandinavian Links in Australia and New Zealand	<a href="http://www.scanlinks.cjb.net/">http://www.scanlinks.cjb.net/</a>

## Classifieds

**Grillco** – Importer of Australian Beefeater BBQs Contact Inger Søhol Lie, mobile phone 951 84 930 email: [info@grillco.no](mailto:info@grillco.no)

**Ullfryd** – suppliers of the finest quality woollen products from the world's best manufacturers (primarily from Australia) to our customers in Norway and other areas of Scandinavia. [www.ullfryd.no](http://www.ullfryd.no)

## About AAN

For more information about AAN or to register on the mailing list contact: [aaninfo@hunter.zeromindset.com](mailto:aaninfo@hunter.zeromindset.com)  
For sponsorship or advertising enquiries, contact [aaninfo@hunter.zeromindset.com](mailto:aaninfo@hunter.zeromindset.com)

The AAN Committee: (President: Simon White, Vice President: Shane West, Secretary: Dana Michels, Treasurer: Jon Read, Committee: Lester Whittaker, Barry Spradbrow, Luke Doktor

AAN greatly appreciates the support of Brewery International and True Blue Wines