

downundercalendar

MAY

TGIF Speaker Series

Friday, May 24, 2013

Scandinavian Cultural Centre

Reception: 5:30, Dinner 6:00 pm

The SCC's guest speaker will be (Aussie and DUCW member) Tim Sinclair-Smith, Director of Zoological Operations at Assiniboine Park Zoo. Tim will be speaking on the International Polar Bear Conservation Centre and how he is dedicated in making Assiniboine Park Zoo one of Canada's leading facilities in conservation, research & education. Reservations recommended – call **204-774-8047** scandinaviancc@shawcable.com

JUNE

Morning at The Zoo

Saturday June 15, 8:50 AM

Assiniboine Park Zoo,
enter by the South Gate

Once again, we are invited to take a 'behind the scenes' tour of our ever expanding and changing zoo. We are limited to 25 people, so we encourage those who missed out last time to get their names in now by calling Lynley at 204-275-7631 ASAP. And then we will open the list up to others. Plan to stay around after the event to visit more of your favourite animal friends — on your own time and your own schedule. Admission is a donation (suggested minimum \$10 individual, \$20 per family).

JULY

Pool Party and Potluck

Saturday July 13, 2:00 pm

57 D'arcy Drive

The club will provide burger and buns, but it is a potluck so please bring side dishes and desserts. Let Lynley know you are coming by calling her at **204-275-7631** or 204-943-3775.

RSVP: If you let us know you are coming, we can be ready for you! RSVP to 204-228-9959 or email social@downunderclub.mb.ca.

ANZAC Day Remembrance



The 2013 ANZAC ceremony. Photos: Jenny Gates.

The more solemn part of the ceremony was a little late starting, but that was for a good reason – people just kept arriving! Over 40, by the time all were seated and Master of Ceremonies, Gordon Keatch, ordered the Colors marched on. Andrew Cobb and Charlie Powell carried the New Zealand and Australian flags respectively, and respectfully. Reverend Gordon Shields officiated again and Al Hansen read the tribute. Morris Faintuch, President of the General Monash Branch, Royal Canadian Legion and Terry Roberts, DownUnder Club President laid wreaths at the cenotaph.

This event never fails to dampen a few eyes, and this one was no exception. It is certainly understandable – remembering and appreciating just how fortunate we are – thanks to the service and sacrifice of so many.

When the Colors were marched off and the tables and chairs rearranged, the potluck dinner and more relaxed part of the evening started – and near record sales at the bar.

Many thanks to all who brought all that scrumptious cooking, and to all who helped in the kitchen, especially Leon at the sink!

Rumor has it that the barman must have been a bit tipsy – setting off the alarm while trying to close-up at the end!?

Advertise in **The Southern Yarn** and on our newly redesigned website

downunderclub.mb.ca.

Contact Jenny (info@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-228-9959) for all the rates.

Send your submission by email or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,

Anyone complaining about the weather now?

One good thing about the return of these more normal temperatures is the return of the birdlife to the backyard. As you might have guessed from our thrill at seeing the Pileated Woodpecker last month, Judy and I are keen amateur birdwatchers. We always try to identify any new ones that show up, usually just transient visitors breaking their migration route at the feeder or in the garden. We have started recording every new sighting in our official National Geographic Birder's Journal. Recent additions include Yellow-rumped Warbler, Redpoll, Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Common Flicker and even a pair of Mallard ducks (return every year to a neighbour's backyard "lake"!). We're now eagerly awaiting the return of the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird.
Photo: Wikipedia

It kind of reminds me of the mix of folks who come out to our Club get-togethers - a good variety of friendly and colorful characters, sharing food and drink and each others' company. ANZAC Day was no exception. It was great to have so many join the Service of Remembrance and social afterwards.

Read Jenny's report on last month's Friendship Force event (this page) and get to know Gordon's interviewee this month, Toby Elson (p. 4).

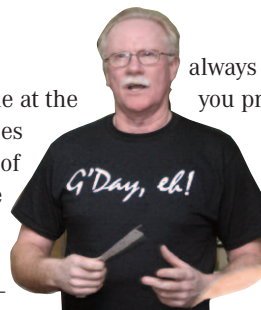
Thank you to this month's contributors - Brian Hydesmith, Judy Powell, Jenny Gates, and our regulars, Murray and Gordon.

Enjoy!

Greetings,

It was great to see so many people at the ANZAC day event. Many new faces came to join us in remembering of those who gave their lives to give us freedom. We should never forget their sacrifice.

I was sad to hear our zoo connection, Tim Sinclair-Smith, has decided to return home to Australia. We will miss his annual visit behind the scenes guided tour and all the great work he has done for our zoo. Good luck in your endeavors back home and remember you will



president's ramblings

Terry Roberts

always be welcome back if you decide you prefer Winnipeg.

We are now headed into spring, I think, so if anyone has some ideas for events through the summer and is willing to get involved then now is the time.

Hopefully flooding will not be an issue for anyone in the coming weeks, just remember keep off the rivers and

waterways and enjoy the warming weather.

100+yearsago

history from downunder

HMS New Zealand

Follow the battlecruiser on her virtual journey around New Zealand ports.

The HMS New Zealand was a multimillion dollar investment for New Zealand 100 years ago. Ready to face her foes, she was a battleship for the motherland and in 1913 the country welcomed her with pride and joy as she toured the ports.

In May 2013, you can follow her journey online - meet the ship's mascot, discover the prince who lived onboard and was sought by local ladies and find out about the piupiu that protected the ship when WWI broke out.

You can follow the journey as it unfolded by living the ship's experience almost as it happened 100 years ago. Each day, this site publishes digitised material that relates to the events of the particular day in 1913. This material may include the ship's log for the day, relevant news articles, photographs, objects and ephemera. [more online: <http://www.hmsnewzealand.com>]



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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience





Witchetty grub.
Photo: tasteaustralia.biz
/bushfood/witchetty-grub

40 foods Australians like to call their own!

Which foods are really Australian? While locals dine on fried rice, Thai curries, Mediterranean cuisine and the like, those dishes don't really belong to Australia. They're part of multicultural Australia, but are often claimed by other nations.

Apart from the homegrown kangaroo – and perhaps the now-American-owned Vegemite – there must be others.

Some are clichéd, some are obvious, some may surprise. But Australia's unique culinary history can lay claim to these 40 foods (with a few Sydney-area recommendations on where to get them).

- #40. Witchetty grubs
 - #39. Anzac biscuits
 - #38. Macadamia nuts....
 - #28. Iced VoVo....
 - #1. Hamburger with beetroot
- [See the whole list here]



An Aussie burger means remembering the beetroot and maybe a fried egg.

Yealands Estate has been awarded the leading 'Sustainable Medium Business' at the International Green Awards. The Marlborough Winery is the only New Zealand organisation and only winery globally recognised by the leading sustainability awards.



The International Green Awards were created with the aim of identifying companies that have exhibited leadership and innovation in their sustainability approach.

Founder of Yealands Estate, Peter Yealands, says this global recognition marks a coming of age for the winery.

"We set out with a vision of best practice from the vine to the bottle. Since launch, our goal has been to produce world-class wines and become a global leader in sustainable wine production. This award, in addition to recently winning the best Sauvignon Blanc in the world at the International Wine Challenge, demonstrates that we're well on the way to achieving that dream."

[Read more at here]

A matter of speaking ...

Congratulations to DUCW member Jenny Gates for winning the Toastmasters District 64 International Speech Contest on Saturday May 4 here in Winnipeg.

Jenny took first place after making her way through three levels of competition to reach the District stage, and then competing against five outstanding speakers from Manitoba and northwestern Ontario on Saturday. She will move on to the semi-finals in Cincinnati, Ohio, in August, with the goal of winning her way to the finals there and competing for the title of World Champion of Public Speaking.

The title of Jenny's speech was "The People I Meet", and as she told me on Sunday, it's a true story about what can happen when we take a moment. "The inspiration for the speech came from a recent trip to Australia," she said, "and it's one story I really love to tell." Maybe we'll hear or print it one day....

Then Jenny surprised me when she said that two other DUCW members have also won the District crown – Jacqueline Cassel-Vernon and Brad Tyler-West. Who knew?! She is hoping to follow Brad all the way to the finals, which he reached in 2006.

Congratulations, Jenny, and all the best as you prepare for the biggest stage of your life!
Charlie Powell

New Zealand's top-selling dark chocolate

Whittaker's has announced New Zealand's top-selling dark chocolate block will in future be Fairtrade Certified.



Fairtrade Certified 72% Dark Ghana 250g will be on shelves in time for Fair Trade Fortnight, May 4-19. Whittaker's is the Exclusive Chocolate Sponsor for Oxfam's 'Biggest Coffee Break' and 'Biggest Chocolate Break', which are held during Fair Trade Fortnight.

Whittaker's two top selling 250g blocks are now both Fairtrade Certified – 5 Roll Refined Creamy Milk and 72% Dark Ghana.

Steve Knapp, CEO, Fairtrade Australia and New Zealand, said: "We welcome and applaud Whittaker's increasing commitment to improving the lives of thousands of small-scale cocoa farmers in West Africa.

"Fairtrade certification delivers measurable impact on the ground for farmers as they receive a fair price for their cocoa and an additional investment to support their families and local community, from better schooling and health services to improving farming practices

[read more here]



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Toby and Jennifer Elson

Even though Toby has been a DUCW member for only a few months, his association with the Club goes back several years to our Folklorama pavilion in 2004. His parents from Australia were visiting Winnipeg at that time, and attended our show with him. He has had an oblique interest in the Club ever since.

Toby was born in Adelaide and attended Brighton Primary School and then took his high school at Westminster School. From there, he earned a B.Comm. at University of Adelaide, and a Chartered Accountant designation in the three years he was working with KPMG Adelaide. After a 3-month secondment to Wellington and Auckland, Toby transferred to KPMG Toronto (for what was



only meant to be 2 years) and his work shifted to IT project management.

Next, he was two years with Delano Technologies, which involved travelling to Dallas, Kansas City and California in the US, and a year long project in Copenhagen with weekend visits to a number of European cities.

Back in Toronto, he met Jennifer Horbaty from Kenora and they were married by the

shores of Lake of the Woods in 2001. In 2003, they moved to Winnipeg where he was a contract Project Manager to Investors Group for three years before becoming a staff member for the past seven years.

Jennifer grew up in Kenora, ON. She attended school there and later graduated from University of Guelph with a degree in Wildlife Biology. For the past three years, she has also worked at Investors Group as an administrator in their insurance group.

The Elsons have a son, Tiernan, who is six years old and now in kindergarten. He really enjoys soccer and Lego!

Toby and Jennifer are outdoorsy types – fishing, kayaking, hiking – and they enjoy summer visits to Kenora.

They have other down under connections too. In 2000 Jennifer did research on Lizard Island in the Great Barrier Reef for a month and in 2006 they spent two months travelling New Zealand and Australia.

It's great to finally have them on board as DUCW members, and we look forward to their participation in our many events.

Gordon Keatch

whoknew?

Things you may not know

Ever heard of Trugo?

Photo: abc.net.au – players in action

An interesting request has been sent to us via the website: "I was watching a travel show on tv where they showed a game called 'Trugo'. Does anyone know where I could find the game here in Winnipeg, or locate the instructions on how to construct the pieces needed and the rules?" Neil.

Since I had never heard of it, a quick Google revealed that Trugo is a sport or game invented in the Western suburbs of Melbourne, by railway workers in the 1920s. Played outdoors on a green similar to that used for lawn bowls, the objective of the game is to score goals or points by striking a rubber ring (wheel) with a mallet though a pair of goal posts. The player stands on a rubber mat and is facing away from the goals, feet either side of the wheel. The short handled mallet is swung between the player's legs to strike the wheel ('tunnel ball' style). The player's opponent ensures that the wheel is safely contained by collecting it in a canvas bag attached to a long pole once the wheel has passed the goal line. The players swap roles after four wheels have been struck by the first player. Each player has 24 shots, 12 from each end. The player or team with the most goals at the end of the playing period is declared the winner. The sport is played by both men and women, and apparently, there are clubs all over Victoria.

So if anyone in the club has played it or knows of it happening anywhere here, let us know at or call 204-228-9959. Maybe this is something we can try next summer, along with the lawn bowls that Bill Pooley and others in our club play.

Jenny Gates



Director of Assiniboine Park Zoo Stepping Down

The Assiniboine Park Zoo's director is leaving the city for Australia.

Tim Sinclair-Smith, who was director of zoological operations, is returning to his native country with his wife and 22-month-old son to be closer to their extended family.

"I've grown extremely close to our APC (Assiniboine Park Conservancy) team so it's going to be very hard to leave," Sinclair-Smith said of his time at the zoo since joining in January 2011.

"I'm so proud of what we're building here and all Manitobans should be just as proud – with all the changes coming in the next few years the Assiniboine Park Zoo is launching itself into the upper class of animal experiences and conservation programs."

Sinclair-Smith has been instrumental in the zoo's \$90-million rehabilitation phase, which has seen the construction of the Journey to Churchill exhibit (opening in 2014) and the arrival of Hudson.

Sinclair-Smith said he looks forward to taking a well-deserved vacation, but thinks his next path will take him to another zoo – a profession he's worked in his entire life.

A replacement hasn't been named.



Is it dump-the-queen survey time in Kiwi-ville?

It has come up again – the status of New Zealand in the world vis a vis Commonwealth, governance, colonial heritage, links to the Royal Family and so on.

For those in generations who have heard it all, and considered it long settled, brace yourself once more. A newspaper survey on the subject is making the rounds again with questions like:

- Is it time to dump the Queen?
- Is an elected head of state better, a president perhaps?
- Is it time to choose another species as New Zealand's national bird?
- What about a fresh new flag?
- Is the Treaty of Waitangi past its best-before date?
- Do Maoris need their own seats in Parliament?

In the spirit of the Constitution Conversation the *Sunday Star-Times* is soliciting views on which Kiwi (pardon, national bird) traditions could do with a shake-up. But there's more.

It seems there is a \$4 million government-sponsored campaign under way to spark this national conversation about the fundamentals of how the country is being run.

Kiwis have until July to talk it through. After that submissions will go to a 12-member Constitutional Advisory Panel. When all has been masticated there will be a report back to Maori Party co-leader Pita Sharples and National's Deputy PM Bill English. And the point?

Simply, National is honouring its promise to the Maori Party made when negotiating its 2008 coalition pact: To lead a consultation exercise on the constitution.

Remember, the tab was put at \$4-million.

Find coral reef holiday glory at Ningaloo

Aussies in Canada who feel they deserve a holiday home during the next winter months should keep heading westward when they arrive in Sydney. It seems, according to a review in *The Globe and Mail*, (April 20, 2013) the most exotic seashore holiday for those who want it wild is Ningaloo Reef, 1,350km north of Perth.

Crystal clear waters over ancient coral reefs, swarm with dolphins, manta rays, cow-tail stingrays, tiny blue fish, sharks (even the

passive 18-metre whale sharks) and the odd green turtle.

This is not your hotdog-stand-resort-country. Few have discovered it yet. But that can't be far off. And the lustre may be coming off the marvelous 2,000km Great Barrier Reef in northeastern Australia and the smaller, more exotic 254km long Ningaloo Reef is ready and fresh for the more adventuresome tropical holidayers.

Getting there is something of a challenge. If you fancy yourself as a backwoods driver, grab a reliable, hardy, high-clearance, all-wheel drive and prepare to lower your tire pressure getting across soft sand stretches. And try to be one of a pair of road travellers backing one another up. If you're not all that confident behind the wheel, fly. There is small-plane delivery daily from Perth to Exmouth (use your magnifying glass on west coast Australia). It's about midway up the reef.

Holiday by being an explorer.

The UK ending its "grand-daddy" annual gift to South Africa

As a grandparent does, when a young-one comes into the family the bestowal of a nice little gift is a traditional way to mark the occasion. Thus it was when South Africa rejoined the Commonwealth fold in 1974 at the end of apartheid. Then London bestowed £20-million (\$30-million) to be shared among its three capitals, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, and Cape Town. It has been delivered every year since.

But in these hard times in Europe, everyone realizes South Africa does not justifiably qualify as a poor infant recipient. Indeed it has crossed over and, in maturity, is viewed (in Africa anyway) as a bestower of munificence. So it's not surprising that Westminster will be ending its benevolent grand-dad role this year.

Chorus a Maori love song in the Beehive, you say?

Hard to believe that pragmatic Kiwi MPs would sit still in their House of Commons while some of them and the gallery were crooning *Pokarekareana*, the Maori love song.

It was a special occasion, as it needed to be. It followed a speech after the legalizing of gay marriage in New Zealand.

Maurice Williamson, a Libertarian MP, in a speech that went viral had just told his opponents: "The Sun will rise tomorrow. Your teen-age daughter will still argue back with you as if she knows everything. Your mortgage will grow. You will not have skin diseases or toads in your bed."

Indeed he said the fact that the "most enormous gay rainbow" spanned the sky was evidence he was on the right side in a drought-hit land when he had supported the bill.

By contrast, across the Tasman, PM Julia Gillard and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott were of like mind when they suggested gay marriage law would not happen soon in Canberra.

WikiLeaks founder making bid for Oz Senate seat in September vote

Julian Assange, 41, the WikiLeaks creator and famous hacker, is languishing in the Ecuadorian embassy in Knightsbridge, London, where he is enjoying political asylum. He's been there for nine months fighting (or avoiding) extradition to Sweden to face claims from two women who claim he sexually assaulted them.

But in that time he's been doing some creative thinking – including thoughts on an ambition to run for a seat in the Australian senate in the September elections.

He's got some help. Greg Barnes, once boss of the Australian Republican Movement, said he's Assange's main man for a WikiLeaks Party campaign to seek a seat in Victoria. He sees Assange running on policies of honesty and transparency.

First, of course, our hero has to shed his Ecuadorian accommodation and find his way back to Australia. There are likely some problems on the way.

The Assange party fears there is an American driven conspiracy against him, retribution for the net hacking that left world governments' secrets waving in the wind. The US for one will try to extradite him if he goes to Sweden for a trial (to which he will plead not guilty). The Americans want him to face conspiracy charges on a fistful of issues.

Murray Burt writes this Commonwealth column to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world. Enjoy.

Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; secretary of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada advisory board; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; a senator of the 166th Battery RCA (Kenora) and a director of both the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



An evening Down Under

On Wednesday April 3, nine members of the DUCW – Terry Roberts, Lynley and Jason Davidson, Betsy and Murray Burt, Joanne and Peter Debenham, Gordon Keatch and Jenny Gates – attended a dinner meeting with members of Friendship Force Manitoba (FFM) at the Masonic Temple. We shared tables and conversation with 32 FFM members and 23 other guests, and we were made to feel very welcome.

It was an information and dining experience like never before, with guest speakers from both groups sharing stories and visual presentations. As well, we were treated to a spectacular slideshow of scenes from New Zealand, compiled by Jason Davidson, that ran right throughout dinner.

The evening officially began with greetings from FFM President Dallas Bagby, and we all joined in a hearty rendition of the Friendship Force grace before dinner was served.

The chefs at the Masonic Temple really outdid themselves with their delicious menu. The pumpkin soup was a winner, the lamb and chicken were cooked to perfection, and the trifle looked and tasted spectacular.

Lynley Davidson, DUCW past president, then shared the trials and tribulations of the people of Christchurch following the massive earthquake there in February 2011. Her words were moving enough, but the photo presentation of the impact of the quake definitely provided a strong visual picture for us all. President Terry Roberts spoke about the DUCW itself, the New Zealand culture, and answered lots of very interesting questions from the audience.

Friendship Force was founded in 1977 by former President Jimmy Carter and has more than 300 active Clubs around the world. One of its major goals is to foster World Peace by

building global friendships between members of clubs through the experience of home stay exchanges. FFM was founded in 1997, and since that time has hosted scores of clubs from around the world. Its members have travelled to the four corners of the earth, and the group meets regularly for dinner and other events.

If you are interested in finding out more about Friendship Force, feel free to visit their website at or contact Rick Hansell at 204-222-0696 or hansellrick@hotmail.com and for all the information.

Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum

The Brandon Sun reports that the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum near Brandon plans to erect a huge elaborate memorial to honour members of the Royal Canadian Air Force who lost their lives in the Second World War. The memorial will span 91 metres shaped like the wings of an airplane. There will be a larger-than-life statue representing the fallen. A black granite wall will contain 19,000 names, etched in stone. The memorial will also pay tribute to members of the Royal Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force and the New Zealand Air Force who died in or near Canada during the war. The memorial, which will be located on the grounds of the museum, will be a worldwide attraction. The estimated cost is about 1.25 million dollars. There is a fund raising campaign to get financial support from governments, businesses and individuals across Canada for the project. The goal is to unveil the RCAF WWII Memorial in August 2014, in conjunction with events marking the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War.

Also..

A trio of Victoria Cross medals awarded to residents of Valour Road will be coming to the Manitoba Museum in 2014. The Valour Road Collection honours Sgt.-Maj. Frederick William Hall, Cpl. Lionel B. (Leo) Clarke, and Lt. Robert Shankland, who all lived on the 700 block of what was then known as Pine Street. To recognize their courage, the City of Winnipeg renamed the street Valour Road in 1925. The collection is at the Canadian War Museum but will be travelling the country starting with Winnipeg next year, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War.

(*Time Lines* – Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter, p. 8, Vol. 45, No. 1, 2013.)



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