

The Southern Yarn

June 2013



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

JUNE

*Morning at The Zoo
Saturday June 15, 8:50 AM
Assiniboine Park Zoo*

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 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). Enter by the South Gate, meet at 8:50 am

JULY

*Saturday July 13, 2:00 pm
Pool Party and Potluck
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 275-7631 or 943-3775.

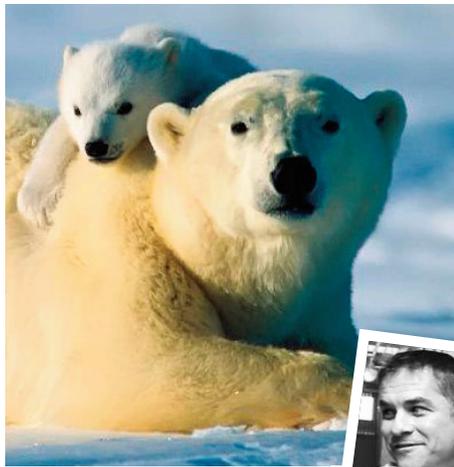
AUGUST

*Saturday August 10th
Annual Golf Tournament
The Players Course*

Hold this date! More details in next month's Southern Yarn.

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.



Tim Sinclair-Smith was instrumental in the new polar bear efforts at our zoo.



Zoo knew?

Assiniboine Park Zoo is Canada's oldest! That's just one interesting fact that several DUCW members learned when they joined other guests at the TGIF Speaker Series on Friday May 24, 2013 at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre.

The SCC's guest speaker was (aussie and DUCW member) Tim Sinclair-Smith, and the engagement was one of his last as Director of Zoological Operations at Assiniboine Park Zoo, due to his return to Australia at the end of May.

Tim spoke on the International Polar Bear Conservation Centre & how he has been dedicated to making our Zoo one of Canada's leading facilities in conservation, research & education. He explained the Positive Reinforcement Training techniques that make animal handling much safer and easier for both handlers and animals. While entertainment is certainly still a big reason to visit the Zoo, it is obvious that the main focus is now on education, research and sustainability. Manitobans can be proud of their world class facility. 'on ya, mate! Best wishes back downunder in Bunbury.

Advertise in The Southern Yarn.

It is a great way to reach a focused group of readers and support the Down Under Club of Winnipeg. Contact Jenny at 204-228-9959 for all the rates and details.



Tannis Hydesmith makes a strong case for Red Kangaroos in a walkabout-style exhibit.

Walkabout open

Hop among the kangaroos and emus this spring and summer at the Zoo's newest permanent, seasonal exhibit - Australian Walkabout!

Australian Walkabout features 14 female red kangaroos plus their young, as well as four emus. The exhibit will consist of an expansive outdoor enclosure similar in size to a school gymnasium, located just south of the Shirley Richardson Butterfly Garden inside the Zoo, where visitors will be able to enter the exhibit with the animals.

The concept of walkabout exhibits is quite common in Australian zoological facilities but is rarely found in zoos in North America.

Known as docile and good natured animals, red kangaroos are the largest of all the kangaroo species and the largest mammal native to Australia. While they are not a new species to the Zoo, this is the first time they'll be part of an exhibit where visitors can get this close.

The emu, also a native of Australia, is the second largest bird in the world by height after its relative, the ostrich.

Fun Facts on the 'Red'

Type: Mammal; Diet: Herbivore, incl. grass & flowering plants; Life span in the wild: On average, up to 23 years; Size: Head and body: 1-1.6m; Tail: 90-110 cm; Weight: 90 kg; Group Name: Mob. [from www.assiniboineparkzoo.ca]

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



Well, the garden is planted and well watered! Now we just need some good summer warmth to get things growing! Summer warmth will be a bonus for our upcoming events, too - the Morning at the Zoo on June 15th, and the Pool Party and Potluck on July 13 - both always fun outings. Whatever you get up to this summer, road trips, camping, a good book, exotic travel, new restaurant experiences - please consider sending us a short story about it (including photos) and sharing with other members via the 'Yarn.

Besides our backyard and bird-watching, another simple pleasure Judy and I enjoy each summer is recreational lawn bowls with a fun group from the West End. The City maintains the greens at Sargent and Wall and you'll find us there around 6:30 pm most Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, weather permitting. It's a ton of fun - could it be otherwise with Bill Pooley involved!? - so don't be shy, come and give it a go.

In place of a "Getting to know you.." interview this month, we've included an article on Sir Edmund Hillary (no doubt if he had decided to move to Winnipeg, he would have been a member of the Downunder Club, and Gordon Keatch would have interviewed him for the Yarn!). Murray Burt's Commonwealth Corner is here and we've gleaned other interesting snippets for your reading pleasure.

Enjoy!

Lawn Bowls

DUCW members and friends have an open invitation to join the recreational West End Lawn Bowlers. Most Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:30pm at Sargent and Wall - weather permitting. Judy and Charlie Powell and Bill Pooley can be found having fun most days. Ph. Pooley: 998-1074

For those of you who are golf lovers, we finally have golfing weather. Great to get out on the links and hit a few balls around, hopefully some of them go in the hole. It's such a short season here compared to back home. I remember when I lived in Melbourne we played every weekend summer and winter. The only difference being the tee off time. Now I play for about 5 months and enjoy most it, except for those holes I'd rather forget.

Our new updated web site is up and running with the new PayPal option for paying your yearly memberships. This will please some as now you can simply pay via your computer, no cheques, and no stamps.

president's ramblings

Terry Roberts



We have some upcoming events, the Zoo (Behind the Scenes) Tour, Pool Party (pray for warmer weather) and Golf Tournament (all tees on deck). Myself, I am looking forward to the golf tournament; hopefully I do better this year than last.

I was reminded today that on June 7th 1944 was the day the allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, France and that was the beginning of the end of WW11 in Europe. Take a moment to remember those who fell defending our freedom.

Have a enjoyable start to the summer and we'll see you out at our upcoming events



Ahhh, summer in Manitoba.
photo: Brian Hydesmith

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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience

Australia gets new triangular \$5 coin

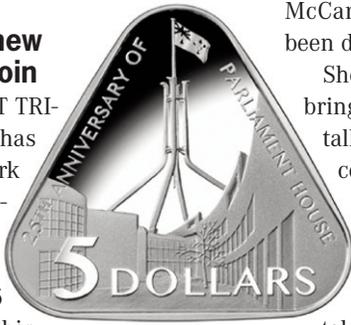
AUSTRALIA'S FIRST TRIANGULAR coin has been minted to mark the 25th anniversary of Australian Parliament House.

The silver \$5 coin was launched this week by the Royal Australian Mint. Just 10,000 of the coins have been released.

A spokesperson at the Royal Australian Mint told Australian Geographic that although the coin is legal tender, it would not be circulated as a regular coin. Being made of silver, the coin is worth more than its \$5 face value, and is aimed at collectors.

There have been several five dollar coins released by the Mint in Australia, however this is the first coin to be shaped like a triangle. Read more Aussie coin news on page 7 of our online version of The Yarn.

Read more details here.



She died surrounded by family, who had been with her in her last days.

One of her closest friends, Wendy McCarthy, said Mrs Hawke's health had been deteriorating for about a week.

She said Mrs Hawke had the ability to bring out the good in people, and could talk with anybody and make them feel comfortable.

"I know she's loved, and since the news tonight my phone's practically worn out with people sending me messages and emails," Ms McCarthy told ABC TV on Thursday.

In happier times: Bob Hawke and Hazel on the night of his election win in 1983.

Photo: Supplied

"I think it's that sense that Hazel was always there for all of us."

The family said in a statement that they appreciated the great affection many had for Hazel, 83, but asked for privacy at this stage.

They said there would be a private funeral for family and close friends.

A memorial celebration of her life will be held later at a time and place to be advised.

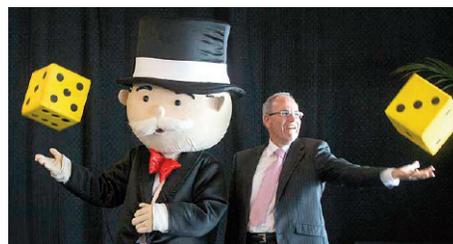
newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Vale Hazel Hawke

23 May 2013. Hazel Hawke has died peacefully after succumbing to complications of dementia, her family announced on Thursday.



Auckland gets own Monopoly

[by Emma Whittaker] No more living in the shadow of London - Auckland is passing go and collecting it's very own version of Monopoly.

The Auckland edition of the iconic board game was launched today at the Viaduct, on the city's waterfront.

It's not in production yet and Aucklanders are being asked to put forward their

suggestions on which of the city's locations they would like to take the spots of famous London locales on the board.

A Facebook page has been set up for nominations, and the game is expected to be on shelves by Christmas.

Mayor Len Brown is tipping Dominion Rd and One Tree Hill to take the prized Mayfair and Park Lane positions.

"They've already been immortalised in the songs of Don McGlashan and U2 respectively," he says.

Mr Brown also tagged Queen St, Great North Rd, Matakana Village, and the Wynyard Quarter as landmarks he'd like to see on the board.



Coasting under canvas by Saskia van Rijk

Canopy Camping is glamorous camping, the brainchild of Liz Henderson and Sonia Minaar, who aim to take the stress out of camping by eliminating downsides. There's less packing and unpacking, there are comfortable sheet-and-blanket beds and a good hot shower.

Kawakawa Station on the Wairarapa Coast near White Rock is the first of their sites, but Liz and Sonia hope to have similarly beautiful farmland sites all over New Zealand offering exclusive and private glamping before long. The only neighbours are possums and the only snoring to endure is that of your companions.

Cape Palliser is an hour and a half over the Rimutakas from Wellington, but a refuelling stop at the Lake Ferry Hotel turns up some honest seafood and spectacular views across Lake Onoke. The drive to Kawakawa Station along the rugged coastline reminds us of New Zealand's fierce beauty.

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First to the Everest summit: 60 years on.

By: James McCormack

It's been 60 years since two men first claimed Everest's summit, but hundreds still attempt it every year. [pic in Drop-Box]

"WELL, GEORGE, WE KNOCKED the bastard off." It is now 60 years since Edmund Hillary rolled back into camp on 29 May 1953 and announced to fellow Kiwi George Lowe, and indeed to the world, that Everest had finally been climbed. Much has changed in the interim: technology, climbing styles and – perhaps most notably – the number of climbers.

By the beginning of 2013, 3842 people had stood on Earth's highest point. And yet the anniversary remains significant.

"It's like a birthday, really," says Hillary's son Peter, 58. "An opportunity to celebrate. But it retains a certain currency to this day because we've begun to realise it was more than climbing the world's highest mountain; it expanded the horizon of possibility for everyone."

Crack Everest team and the final push

Ten previous expeditions had tried and failed, although some had come tantalisingly close to the 8848m summit. On the prior year's Swiss attempt, a pair of climbers ascended as high as 8600m. One, a Sherpa named Tenzing Norgay, returned for the 1953 British assault. At that time, Norgay probably knew more about Everest than anyone alive.

And, says Peter, unlike many Sherpas then, he was very ambitious. John Hunt, the expedition leader, was naturally keen to procure his services. But Ed Hillary, too, had a deal of familiarity; this was his third Himalaya expedition.

Gaining experience was difficult in those days; Nepal allowed few on the mountain, a far cry from today. In 2012, 568 individual permits were issued, and on 19 May alone, 179 climbers reached the summit. Four died that day and many critics blame, in part, the overcrowding.

In later years – reflecting on the ever-growing numbers – Hillary often said he was lucky; they were the sole expedition in the entire region. And unlike those forced to tread today's "beaten track", he wrote, they were able to pioneer their own path. Nothing



was certain. Not even life itself, for physiologists of the day weren't convinced survival at that altitude was possible.

It wasn't until Hillary wriggled and jammed his way up what we now call the Hillary Step – a 12m wall of rock and ice at nearly 8800m – that he knew they would make it.

Everest was never just a mountain

In the context of the times, the achievement was powerfully symbolic. Much of the world was traumatised by war and the loss of another generation of young men. But this ascent, wrote The Times of London was "the hope of a new heroic age".

For the Empire's subjects, the British expedition's success seemed especially propitious, for the news broke on the day of Elizabeth II's coronation, "a splendid trophy" for the young queen.

Recognition was, unfortunately, patchy for Norgay. In one triumphant Sydney Morning Herald article, he was never even mentioned. But the common assumption that he received virtually no acknowledgement isn't entirely true either. On the front page of The New York Times, "the famous Sherpa guide" gained more column space than Hillary.

On arriving in Kathmandu, crowds in their tens of thousands chanted his name – Hillary later wrote he'd never seen such terror as in Tenzing's eyes then – book deals ensued, and there was a meeting with the Queen for him and his wife.

Hillary remained tied to Nepal

As for Sir Edmund, knighted for his Everest success, he considered his greatest achievement to be not so much ascending Everest, but in what he achieved afterwards helping local people. Hillary said he never felt sorry for the Sherpas. He admired them. Their lives were hard, but they were resilient.

Yet that didn't mean he couldn't assist. In collaboration with locals, he established hospitals, schools, medical clinics and environmental programs. "Dad felt that what you did in the past was fine," says Peter, "but what he was really interested in was what you were doing now, and what you can do in future."

When Hillary's wife Louise and daughter Belinda died in a plane crash near Kathmandu in 1975, he became even more committed. It was a way, says Peter, of creating something positive from the sacrifice. "He hurled himself back into it, and he never stopped. It was a testimony to the sort of man he was."

Despite progress in the region's education and health, challenges persist, for Nepal remains poor. For this reason, Peter disagrees with those arguing for substantially reduced commercial climbing on Everest: "We can't in any conscience wish to take it away from the Nepalese people." However, that doesn't deny problems exist.

How to manage the many footprints on the mountain

Foremost is the number of inexperienced climbers, those who would not attempt Everest were it not for the fixed ropes and ladders, the drug dexamethasone to combat altitude sickness and the existence of guides willing to virtually drag them, if necessary, to the top.

Make no mistake; reaching the summit is still an achievement. Everest has not been tamed. Climbers regularly die, but numbers are such that on that fateful day of 19 May last year, a two-hour queue formed at the Hillary Step.

Yet Peter notes most ascend via the south-east or north ridges. "The other faces of this huge mountain have no-one on them. For hard mountaineers who want to climb something new and amazing, the opportunities are still there."

In this fundamental respect, climbing Everest has changed little since 1953. There are still dreams to achieve, and the chance to fulfil human potential. It was Tenzing Norgay and Ed Hillary who showed us that possibility.



Cheating service 'rampant' for students visiting NZ to study

Commercial cheating services for Chinese-speaking students are probably just the tip of the iceberg, a senior Victoria University academic says.

It's borne of a low threshold in English-language competency for the newcomers to NZ universities. This, combined with different cultural attitudes to cheating, meant the Sunday Star-Times' revelations "doesn't come as the slightest surprise", associate professor of economics Martin Lally said yesterday.

"In China, and in many other countries, cheating and corruption is rampant - they have a philosophy that is completely different to us ... It's more like if you can get away with it, then fine."

NZ was regularly rated one of the least corrupt countries in the world, and its negative attitude to cheating made the country a global "outlier", he said.

Many foreign students were "hopeless at writing an essay" because they lacked basic English proficiency. "I have some sympathy for them, because English is not their first language, so they're more tempted to cheat."

His Finance 201 course had about 300 students, about half of whom spoke English as a second language and were mostly from China or Southeast Asia.

Six university-employed tutors dealt with about 50 students each in this class, and Dr Lally said it was impossible for tutors to assess students' English proficiency on an individual basis.

Prof. Bob Buckle, dean of commerce at Victoria Business School, said supervised examinations and tests made up 100 per cent of the assessment for the Finance 201 course, and the school took the quality of its teaching very seriously.

Many students studying in New Zealand were from urban, middle-class families and parents had all their hopes invested in them because of China's one-child policy.

Cyprus gets dollop of Euros to help it crawl to financial stability

Two tranches of emergency aid money, worth about three billion Euros, flop into the Cyprus economy by the end of this month (June) as part of the 10-billion Euro aid package activated by the European Stability Mechanism.

With a population of about 800,000, Cyprus [it is one of the tiniest of the 54 Commonwealth members], and it has been hard hit as a bottom-of-the-ladder member of the beleaguered 17 members of the European Union.

Once riven by civil war between its rival Greek and Turkish populations and still divided, it is now in relative peace with heavy reliance on tourism. Its banks' popularity for secreting Russians' offshore investments contributed to the Cyprus crisis.

As a plus, it has been a popular R&R stop for Canadian troops returning home from service in Afghanistan. Drastic budget cutting and frozen bank deposits gave small hope for a blossoming future. But the announced discovery recently of rich offshore oil and gas resources has changed Cypriot prospects.

Dramatic libel law changes are in the works in Britain

The UK parliament passed a new Defamation Bill last month, which will now go on to Royal Assent. It is viewed as major victory against censorship in Britain and its notorious libel laws, which is being changed in favor of free speech.

The process over the last three and a-half years has not been an easy one writes Pdraig Reidy, Senior Writer at Index on Censorship.

He said English libel laws were silencing legitimate criticism and debate - not just in the UK but internationally. London's High Court was seen as the place to go to silence opponents and critics, whether you were a South African snake-oil salesman or a Saudi sheikh, Reidy wrote.

Novelists, journalists, lawyers and comics - especially comics - also entered the public fray to disarm the old law. But Mr Justice Eady, the High Court judge at the centre of some of the most contentious libel cases of recent times, has retired. And Barack Obama had , a US law specifically designed to protect Americans from London libel rulings. They were supporting factors.

But what did it was the remarkable loyal support of the thousands of libel reform advocates at home and abroad.

Yes, another of our Commonwealth Spitfires has crashed

Many Commonwealth citizens of that certain era - of Second World War aerial dog fights - were perhaps startled with the news (and had a return of an inner ache) on learning another Mk 1 Spitfire had crashed.

It happened when one of the iconic fight-

ers came to grief after landing at East Midlands Airport. The 46-year-old pilot pulled the landing gear retraction lever while taxiing off the runway. He should have pulled the flaps lever. The result: the wheels folded up and the plane ditched nose down on the tarmac.

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) report read: The pilot had more than 9,200 hours' flying experience, of which 89 hours were in this type of plane.

Wallenberg is celebrated as Australia's first honorary citizen

Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, posthumously, has been made Australia's first honorary citizen. The measure is in recognition of the thousands of Jews he saved from the Nazi Holocaust.

Among the suffering European Jews were many from Australia, Prime Minister Julia Gillard reminded her audience in a ceremony in Canberra.

She said the measure was "an expression of deep gratitude for all that our nation gained when so many were saved by Wallenberg and came to these shores... [It celebrates] something exceptional in the human spirit," she said.

As the last witnesses to the horrors of the Second World War pass on, it is vital, it is imperative to keep alive the memory and example of individuals like Raoul Wallenberg, the Prime Minister said.

Wallenberg wrought his humanitarian wonders while posted in Nazi-occupied Budapest in July 1944. He is believed to have saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews in the closing months of the death camp horrors by providing them with protective passports.

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

200+ years ago

history from downunder

The first European crossing of the Blue Mountains.

THEY WERE CONDEMNED BY eminent explorer George Bass as “horrible perpendicular mountains”. Governor King conceded, “This formidable barrier is impassable for men.” The British House of Commons glibly concluded that beyond these mountains, “the colony will not be capable of extension.” It seemed that the Blue Mountains, in modern-day New South Wales, had hoodwinked explorers since colonisation. From 1789 to 1806, 10 expeditions had penetrated this formidable natural fortress, most of them deemed heroic failures. On 11 May 1813, Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Wentworth commenced their historic attempt to release Sydney from its topographical prison. Twenty-one days later, they ‘crossed’ the Blue Mountains. Read more at:

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/200-years-on-crossing-of-the-blue-mountains.htm>



Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth with their convict helpers, in an 1880 image depicting the expedition.

1000-year-old coins may rewrite Australian history

Five copper coins and a nearly 70-year-old map with an “X” might lead to a discovery that could rewrite Australia’s history.

Australian scientist Ian McIntosh, currently Professor of Anthropology at Indiana University in the US, is planning an expedition in July that has stirred up the archaeological community.

The scientist wants to revisit the location where five coins were found in the Northern Territory in 1944 that have proven to be 1000 years old, opening up the possibility that seafarers from distant countries might have landed in Australia much earlier than what is currently believed.

Back in 1944 during World War II, after Japanese bombers had attacked Darwin two years earlier, the Wessel Islands - an uninhabited group of islands off Australia’s north coast - had become a strategic position to help protect the mainland.

Australian soldier Maurie Isenberg was stationed on one of the islands to man a radar station and spent his spare time fishing on the idyllic beaches.

While sitting in the sand with his fishing-rod, he discovered a handful of coins in the sand.

He didn’t have a clue where they could come from but pocketed them anyway and later placed them in a tin.

In 1979 he rediscovered his “treasure” and decided to send the coins to a museum to get them identified.

The coins proved to be 1000 years old. Still not fully realising what treasure he held in his hands, he marked an old colleague’s map with an “X” to remember where he had found them.

The discovery was apparently forgotten again until anthropologist McIntosh got the ball rolling a few months ago.

The coins raise many important questions. For a start, if James Cook wasn’t the first person to discover Australia, who was?

How did 1000-year-old coins end up on a remote beach on an island off the northern coast of Australia?

Did explorers from distant lands arrive on Australian shores way before the James Cook declared it “terra nullius” and claimed it for the British throne in 1770?

We do know already that Captain Cook wasn’t the first white seafarer to step on Australia’s shores.

In 1606 a Dutch explorer named Willem Janszoon reached the Cape York peninsula in Queensland, closely followed a few years later by another Dutch seafarer Dirk Hartog.

And the Spaniard Luiz Vaez de Torres discovered the strait between Papua New Guinea and Australia, which was later named Torres Strait in his honour.

However, none of these explorers recognised that they had discovered the famed southern continent, the “terra australis incognita”, which was depicted as a counterweight to the known land masses of the northern hemisphere on many world maps of the day.

Read the whole article here: [at the couriermail.com.au](http://www.couriermail.com.au)



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