

The Southern Yarn

July 2013



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB INC.

downundercalendar

JULY

Saturday July 27, 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

The DUCW Golf Tournament is being played at the Players Course, 2695 Inkster Boulevard. We have enjoyed this course in previous tournaments, as it enables us to have the choice of playing either 9 or 18 holes of golf. Come enjoy yourself with other members and friends in this lighthearted event, where no one takes their golf too seriously. (See all the golf details on page 2)

And, honestly, mates, while you've got the calendar out...

SEPTEMBER

Friday September 13th
Wine and Cheese

Bring your bad luck stories .. at SCC

OCTOBER

Saturday October 26th
Formal Dinner - details to follow

NOVEMBER

Friday November 29
AGM - at SCC

DECEMBER

Sunday December 8th
Christmas Party - at SCC

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.



photos: hydesmith

Our club members visited the zoo. Adults and kids like Ryan and Jessica ambled around with roos, emus, butterflies and even a polar bear.

Zoo's emus and roos

On a sunny Saturday morning a couple of weeks ago, my wife Tara and I joined about 20 other DUCW members and their families for a guided tour of Assiniboine Park Zoo organised by Lynley Davidson. Our guide, Heather, met us at the gate and we walked to our first stop, the new Australian Walkabout. This is a large fenced paddock with mobs of 14 red kangaroos and 4 emus. The kangaroos aren't yet used to people, so they stayed in a far corner, but the emus are all hand-raised and mingled with us freely. We were even able to pet them - something we weren't even able to do in Australia!

We then moved on to the Shirley Richardson Butterfly Garden. This is a lovely space that includes an outdoor garden patio and a covered area where visitors can walk among monarchs, painted ladies, and other butterfly species. It also includes a small gift store where you can see the chrysalises of different species waiting to hatch. There was a wide variety of sizes and colours and Heather told us a general rule of thumb: The uglier the chrysalis, the prettier the butterfly. Another interesting fact is that butterflies do not grow after leaving the chrysalis.

As we walked through the zoo, we were very impressed with the changes happening. It had been a few years since our last visit and the zoo is now in the midst of a multi-year redevelopment project. There has already been a marked improvement and you

can also see the evidence of big changes in the works. And everywhere we saw geese with gaggles of large yellow goslings and hundreds of Richardsons ground squirrels scampering around inside and outside the animal enclosures.

A large Steller's sea eagle from Russia put on a display flying around inside their large compound and most of us took a quick step back when an Asiatic lion growled and lunged towards the bars of its enclosure. Among many animals we saw inside the large tropical Toucan Ridge dome were a capybara, the world's largest rodent, which looks like a spaniel-size guinea pig, and an ocelot, the dwarf cousin of a leopard.

The highlight of our day was a visit to the International Polar Bear Conservation Centre (IPBCC) and a behind-the-scenes tour of their labs and orphan cub rehabilitation facilities. The IPBCC currently has only one resident, 20 month old Hudson. He spends each day outside in a new enclosure, but still sleeps each night in a heavy-duty cage within the IPBCC.

We ended our tour with a visit to Penguin Cove, temporary home to three African black-footed penguins, Tubbs, Sal, and Moosho. A fourth, named Jelly, expected to join them later this summer.

Be sure to visit, and say "g'day!"

Chris Brasher



online



find us on facebook or the web
www.downunderclub.mb.ca
email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca



G'day,

If you're interested in politics down-under in Australia, Michael Madigan provided an insight in the Winnipeg Free Press recently - Women Down Under. Maybe the Canadian government could offer some sort of exchange program, like the teachers do, so that the Aussie polies can come and learn some good ol' Cannuck politeness - there's no back-stabbing or misogyny here, eh? Anyway the September election, and the campaign leading up to it, is sure to be interesting! (See page six for the latest...)

Meanwhile, we've pulled together some less controversial items which will hopefully entertain as you enjoy some summer relaxation - like around the pool at Lynley and Jason Davidson's on July 27th (note the change from the 13th). You can also mark your calendars with the other Club events (front page) for the year and stay tuned for further details. Our Club President, Terry, takes a break from his message this month -but Gordon is back and has interviewed Wayne Dietrich, p. 4. Murray Burt has also kindly sent in his Commonwealth dispatch and there are snippets and links to lots of other news. Thanks also to Eddie Powell, Chris Brasher, Jenny and Brian.

Enjoy!



GOLF TOURNAMENT DETAILS

Tee off time for 18 holes is 10:30 am; Tee off time for 9 holes is 1 pm. Cost is \$40 for 18 holes (\$35 for seniors, 55+), and for 9 holes is \$22, (and \$18 for seniors). We will make the presentations in the casual eating restaurant straight after the round, and you can order food as you require there. We have had some good response to date, and as there are limited spaces available, please call Peter at 237-1805 if you have not already done so. I will be contacting all participants prior to the tournament to verify tee times, etc. Hope to hear from you shortly, Peter, pjbmunn@hotmail.com

90yearsago

history from downunder

Famous dark brown paste

ON 13 JUNE 1923, bearing a name pulled out of a hat, a dark brown paste hit shelves around Australia. During 1922, when imports of Marmite from Britain began to dry up due to the war, 30-year-old Victorian chemist Dr Cyril Percy Callister began work on a substitute.

The work was commissioned by entrepreneur Fred Walker, founder of Kraft Food Co, who had been trying to develop a similar yeast-based spread since 1918, with little success. Cyril spent months using trial and error to produce a brewer's yeast similar the base substance of Marmite. Once he'd perfected the formula, a competition was launched to name the new spread. Fred Walker's daughter pulled the name from a hat, giving life to the now iconic Australian product. Read more:

...<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/on-this-day-the-birth-of-vegemite.htm>



Staying in touch with High Commissions for Australia, New Zealand

Download the latest edition of 'Australia News' from the Australian High Commission in Canada, in PDF format: <http://bit.ly/19bvMkz>. For current news, information and events, you can follow the High Commissioner on Twitter at @AusHCCanada. We encourage you to share the newsletter with friends and colleagues and to send any feedback to otwanews@dfat.gov.au. www.canada.highcommission.gov.au

Also, check out the New Zealand High Commission website in Canada for all things Kiwi at <http://www.nzembassy.com/canada>

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Kookaburras (Photo: gryphon-life.com)

Kookaburras bemused after anthem gaffe

[By Daniel Fraser, sent in by Eddie Powell] Australia's men's hockey team has been forced to watch on awkwardly as officials mistakenly played the New Zealand national anthem instead of Advance Australia Fair prior to a match in Holland.

The Kookaburras were waiting for the Australian anthem prior to their opening Hockey World League match with Belgium when the Maori version of the New Zealand anthem began playing.

Footage of the anthem ceremony shows the bemused response from the Kookaburras as they realise the mistake, some players begin grinning while others shake their head. (nine's coverage on the web link)

18,000 Cattle to Be Moved in Record Drive

The Queensland Government is questioning whether to allow 18,000 cattle on the state's stock routes.

South Australian pastoralist Tom Brinkworth has recently bought the large number of heifers in the Gulf and Northern Territory.

Earlier in the week, the Queensland Department of Natural Resources overruled a shire council's decision to reject a droving application because of a shortage of grass and water.

But now the agriculture minister, John McVeigh, says the decision to allow droving of cattle not owned by Queensland graziers is concerning.

The people behind a campaign to collect fodder, fuel and funds to buy them for Queensland graziers in drought say it's 'going off' just four days after being launched. It's called Buy a Bale and it is a joint venture between Ted Egan's Aussie Helpers and the Give Back campaign, run by Charles Alder from Brisbane.

He says more than \$110,000 in cash and 40,000 bales of hay have already been pledged. [Read more here...]



Tasmanian ferry fastest in the world

Image: Tasmanian company have designed the fastest passenger ferry in the world (Incat)

Despite the ongoing problems for manufacturing in Australia, one company in Tasmania is going from strength to strength.

Incat have produced the fastest passenger ferry in the world with a top speed of 51.8 knots (107 per hour).

The ferry has been christened Francesca after the current Pope and the latest design has been sold to Argentina.

The ferries are Tasmanian designed and manufactured and Incat chairman, Robert Clifford says keeping a well trained workforce and having a specific niche market are reasons for the company's success.

Robert Clifford, Incat chairman,
David Lipscombe shipyard supervisor
Producer: Greg Muller

Auckland animators' robots conquer US

Animated short film Shelved, which was created by students at Auckland's Media Design School, has won four different awards in two American competitions.

The film won Best Animated Film, Best Director and Best Animated Characters at the Los Angeles Movie Awards and then went on to win Best Animated Short Film at the New York International Short Film Festival.

As well, the film was in the official selection at the South by Southwest Festival in Austin Texas, and has screened at 15 international film festivals to date.

The five-minute film took 12 weeks to animate by the team of 11 students led by director James Cunningham.

Shelved follows two robots that are bored with their dead-end jobs until they learn they are going to be replaced by humans.

The two lead robots were designed by Weta Workshop senior concept artist Greg Broadmore, who originally sent the concept to Cunningham for a potential short film idea. This is the second time Cunningham and the students at Media Design School have interpreted his artwork into a short film and Broadmore says it's incredibly inspiring to see the results.

Read more and watch their animated film at their website.

Painting by
Nora Fraser –
"Canada and
New Zealand
getting to know
each other"
This original by
Winnipegger,
Nora Fraser,
was exhibited recently at the Red River Ex and
can be viewed/purchased here, online....:



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Call Terry 204-229-6642 or 204-663-6549

Wayne Dietrich

My interview with Wayne had just started when it appeared to me that he was (in my words) a “techie” and also had an interesting introduction into the Down Under Club. Here’s his story:

Wayne grew up in Winnipeg, and attended Daniel McIntyre H.S. In 1982 he travelled to Australia and spent 6 months travelling to all the major cities and through the outback to Alice Springs and Ayers Rock.

He took a 1 year Telecommunication Technician course at Red River College. For the next 10 years he worked for Northern Telecom on phone systems equipment, circuit boards, etc. They had plants all over North America - USA, Calgary, Saskatoon and Toronto, to name a few. The company was faltering, so he left and went back to RRC to complete a 2 year Communications Engineering Technology course and received his diploma. Wayne then worked for 18 months at Vansco Electronics on control systems for tractors and Ford New Holland skid steer loaders. He then took off for a year travelling around the world - Fiji, New Zealand, Tasmania, Asia (four months) and Europe (six months) before returning to Canada. Back in Canada he worked at Boeing Aviation for a year.

For the past 14 years Wayne has been



with Manitoba Hydro working as a telecontrol technician in a variety of locations, from 2001 to 2004 in Thompson and Grand Rapids. He has installed and maintained a variety of communication equipment such as microwave systems, fibre optics, telephone and data network..

Wayne’s introduction to the Club was at our first Folklorama pavilion in 1993 at the Holy Cross gymnasium in St Boniface. He

worked at the bar with Pat McGrath and Peter Munn (the fox in the chicken coop?).

Wayne used to play a lot of volleyball and was a volunteer driver for out-of-country teams at our national team competitions.

Hopefully we’ll see him at one of our functions soon.

Gordon Keatch



We couldn't resist sharing more photos from our zoo excursion including the polar bear lock-up, Tim's virtual presence with Lynley and of course an emu.



Wellington snares hundreds of Aussie call centre jobs

Maybe it's the appealing Kiwi accent that's a factor. Maybe it's just business smarts. But no matter, it's more than that and it's real: Wellington is becoming the beneficiary of hundreds of new call-centre jobs. And they're coming from Australia, thanks in part to a game of Aussie Rules football in the city on Anzac Day.

Wellington city councillor John Morrison and businessman John Dow used the visit to broker a deal with the Australian firm CallActive to bring 300 to 500 call-centre jobs to Wellington. They say that number will likely grow to 2,000 in a few years.

The news comes hot on the heels of ANZ's decision to create an extra 70 call centre jobs in Wellington, and word earlier that Contact Call Centres Australia will open a 100-strong office there this month. Cloud software company Xero also says it plans to swell by 150 its Wellington HQ existing staff of 210. Chief Exec Rod Drury says Xero's total had already climbed from 382 to more than 400 since March. "Within three years, we will be at 1,000 staff, if not more."

The idea began popping at CallActive after the city hosted the Australian Football League match between St Kilda and the Sydney Swans at Westpac Stadium on Anzac Day, Morrison said. He and Dow made the game an occasion to show off Wellington's best side to Oz business visitors. An educated workforce, a compact capital and cost savings of 30 to 35 % were the appealing features.

Earlier last month, Prime Minister John Key told a Takapuna business audience that Wellington was dying and the government did not know how to turn it around.

Fiji troops, medics on Syria peace mission

Fiji has sent 171 military personnel to the Golan Heights bordering Syria to serve under the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

The unit consists of 140 infantry and a balance mainly of medical personnel.

"As mandated by the UN, the Fiji medics will supplement existing UN medical teams in the mission," a forces spokesman said.

The mission is important for the nation and marks its commitment to international peacekeeping, a release from the offices of Fiji President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, and Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama said.



Assange

Aussie super-leaker proud of his role helping Snowden

Sydney headlines say super-leaker Julian Assange is proud that WikiLeaks has helped US leaker Edward Snowden escape from Hong Kong and seek refuge in Ecuador.

It may be a populist position.

The Sydney Morning Herald said that even as the US demanded Snowden, "not be allowed to proceed further" overseas, a large world audience admires him and his purpose. He is charged with revealing vast US surveillance.

The former spy landed in Moscow after a fast exit from Hong Kong, escorted by WikiLeaks legal and diplomatic advisers.

"Mr Snowden requested that WikiLeaks apply its legal expertise to secure his safety," an organization statement said.

Assange's lawyer, former Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon, said the US's pursuit of Snowden and his client for disclosing information in the public interest was "an assault against the people".

Assange has been holed up in the Ecuadorean embassy in London for over a year.



New breed of drones a potential shocker in the Pacific

The US Navy has introduced a new drone fighter jet into its arsenal in the Pacific, raising some apprehensions in the southern hemisphere playground – if not the Antipodes, perhaps in the SE Asian Commonwealth.

Robot aircraft, both the surveillance vari-

ety and the hovering killers that watch for Taliban enemies in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Yemen are subjects of terror for the innocents who are so often untargeted victims.

Worries don't go that far, but it is not so long ago that NZ shaped pacifist policies towards US Navy visitors, barring those which wouldn't guarantee they were nuclear free.

The new navy drone weapon is the X-47B. It's a big pilotless stealth delta bird, 38 feet long, with a 62-foot wingspan. It's nicknamed "the Robot" by its handlers and it flies at high subsonic speeds with a range of more than 2,000 miles.

A collaboration between the Navy and Northrop Grumman, the plane's other battle capabilities lift it well above just another drone rating. The knobs and wires inside the Robot make it a game-changer in East Asia.

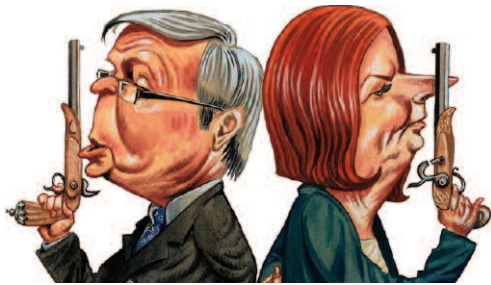
According to Richard Parker in *The New York Times* the craft's entirely computerized takeoff, flight and landing raises the possibility of dozens or hundreds of its successors engaged in combat at once.

"It is also capable of withstanding radiation levels that would kill a human pilot and destroy a regular jet's electronics: in addition to conventional bombs, successors to this test plane could be equipped to carry a high-power microwave, a device that emits a burst of radiation that would fry a tech-savvy enemy's power grids, knocking out everything connected to it, including computer networks that connect satellites, ships and precision-guided." Parker is the author of the forthcoming book, *Unblinking: Rise of the Modern Superdrones*.

This naval expansion is the beginning of a new chapter in military history: addressing an ominous turn in a military rivalry now building between the US and China. With US Marines now based in its north, some in Australia may get an early view of these war toys if the aircraft carrier, the George H. W. Bush, pays a courtesy call. Bush flight-tested the first of the super drones.

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; secretary of the Camerons Foundation; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; a senator of the 166th Battery RCA (Kenora) and a director of The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



Aussie politics update

Australian prime minister Julia Gillard got a taste of her own medicine a few days ago, being topped by her party's own supporters of Kevin Rudd, who she overthrew just a few years ago. It was colourful Aussie politics at its finest again. Gillard will leave politics as promised and the federal election later in the year will see where the chips fall.

A first time for everything!

For as long as anyone can remember, the membership dues in the Down Under Club of Winnipeg have been \$10 for individual members, and \$20 for a couple or family. And while that has served us well over the years, the time has come to take things up a notch.

For the first time since membership dues were introduced, the Board has decided to increase membership to \$20 for individual members, and \$30 for a couple or family, effective September 2013. It's a small increase, but a necessary one.

Membership dues were always intended to cover the cost of producing, printing and mailing *The Southern Yarn*. Increases in those areas have exceeded the return from the dues, despite the fact that many members have opted to receive their monthly newsletter online. As a result, we have been delving further into our general revenues and would like to stem the tide a little.

The primary fundraiser for the Club has been Folklorama, and our last event was in 2004. Funds raised have been used over the years to cover general office costs, the website, and other admin expenses, to pay for storage for our supplies and rent at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre, to provide complementary food and beverages at our regular events, to reach out to members in times of need and loss, and to donate to charities when events impact our compatriots back home and abroad.

I hope I speak for everyone in the Club when I say that the value of being a member is well worth the cost. For starters, our newly designed website is spectacular, and much more accessible and contemporary for visitors. We are better able to promote our partners, sponsors and supporters, and we have also attracted new members and lots of inquiries that we can now address on a regular basis. As well, there is the opportunity for you to contribute to the site, if you feel so inclined.

Then there are our monthly events, which go a long way to keeping our down under community thriving and connected. There is always the opportunity to meet with

new and long-term members at events like ANZAC Day, Australia Day and Waitangi Day, Assiniboine Park Zoo, bowling – both the 5-pin and lawn varieties, the Formal Dinner and the Christmas party, just to name a few.

And we can pat ourselves on the back for being one of the few active social clubs remaining in Canada, and our newsletter, *The Southern Yarn*, for being perhaps one the last of its kind in North America, and certainly the best!

Increasing the dues was by no means a flippant decision. We sincerely hope you can appreciate the reasons for the increase, and will continue to support the Club by remaining a member long into the future.

Dues will go up in September 2013, but for those of you who would like to get the jump on the increase, feel free to pay now and save! Mail your cheques to the Club at the address on the front of this issue, pay in person at the next event, or take advantage of our new PayPal link on the website for faster and more secure payment. Any questions or comments, please contact Peter Debenham at peter@pdlactg.ca or 204-955-0393.

On behalf of the Board, thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Timeline: Henry Lawson

[By Ian Connellan] HENRY LAWSON CREATED SOME of this country's richest literary portraits, which yokes his writing to such luminaries as Charles Dickens in England and Mark Twain in the USA.

But there's no equivalent of Twain's Mississippi River or the malevolent Dickensian London in Lawson's Australia. Even detailed landscape descriptions are sometimes lacking in his work.

It's people and situations that make his writing, and the key was his genius as an observer of human interaction.

He caught the subtleties of behaviour and effort, dreams and despair, character and atmosphere.

Recounting the major events in this great man's life paint a picture of the development of an Australian icon.

More here...



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