

The Southern Yarn

September 2013

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.



downundercalendar

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.

Membership dues ... Paid for 2014 yet?

Individual \$20 ... Couple/family \$30 ...
Mail your cheques to the Club at the address on the back of this issue, pay in person at the next event, or take advantage of our new form and 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.



Australia's Prime Minister elect Tony Abbott has issued a warning to the disparate group of senators likely to hold the balance of power that they should not try to stymie the Coalition's agenda. Photo: DAN HARRISON, Sydney Morning Herald

Tony Abbott is the 28th prime minister-elect of Australia after the Coalition of the Liberal and National parties swept into office with a clear majority. Mr Abbott has promised to govern for all Australians - not just those who voted for him.

Labor has suffered a comprehensive defeat but senior MPs say they expected it to be worse. **Kevin Rudd** has stepped down as Labor leader. The Australian Electoral Commission has declared the Coalition has won 91 lower house seats, Labor has 54, the Greens have one and the independents Bob Katter and Andrew Wilkie have held on and the Senate remains more uncertain but the Coalition has not won control in its own right. (www.smh.com.au)

Election

A new government prepared to take control of Australia on Sunday, with policies to cut pledges in foreign aid and to wind back greenhouse gas reduction measures in an effort to balance the nation's books.

Prime Minister-elect Tony Abbott also plans to visit Indonesia soon in part to discuss controversial plans to curb the number of asylum seekers reaching Australian shores in Indonesian fishing boats.

Abbott's conservative Liberal party-led coalition won a crushing victory at elections Saturday against the centre-left Labor Party, which had ruled for six years, including during the turbulent global financial crisis.

Abbott, a supremely fit 55-year-old, began his first day as prime minister-elect with an early morning bicycle ride from his Sydney home with friends.

(AP, in The Winnipeg Free Press)

Golf anyone?

On the 10th of August, a bright and sunny Saturday afternoon, 14 members and friends got together for the annual DUCW golf tournament, held again at the Players course on Inkster Boulevard. Once again, everyone enjoyed themselves with both the golf game, and mingling with friends after the game. We proved once again that you don't have to be a great golfer to enjoy the day. Prizes were given out after the game on the patio of the restaurant, with everyone awarded a DUCW tee shirt.

The individual champs were:

- Low score 18 holes: Peter Debenham
- Low score 9 holes: Jason Davidson
- Closest to the pin: Grant Hinrichsen
- Longest drive: Lynley Davidson
- And our special award to the most honest golfer: Ryan Davidson

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,
It's been a mixed sort of summer – lots of variety, especially in regards to the weather, but also in the range of activities to choose from. There is certainly no excuse for boredom in Manitoba! While our backyard garden has been a major focus for us – hummingbirds to watch and feed, fruit and veggies to tend and enjoy (our best harvest ever this year), bbqs and drinks with neighbours, listening in on the concerts and football excitement (or disappointment?) emanating from the nearby Investors Field stadium, etc. – we have still managed to get out and enjoy some of the many attractions offered in Winnipeg. We visited the Western Canada Aviation Museum to check out the only remaining airworthy B-17 Flying Fortress when it touched down last month; admired the 100 Masters at the WAG; camped at Falcon Lake; and still managed to experience the vibrant cultures of Colombia, Israel and the First Nations people of the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council (Folklorama pavilions) – to name just a few highlights.

If you have a story to share about your summer experiences, please send it in and add to the lots of variety we try to present in the pages of the Southern Yarn.

This month we get to know Laurie Morris, thanks to Gordon. Murray again is keeping us in the know on happenings in our part of the Commonwealth; and there are other interesting stories to just scan or follow the links for more detail.

Charlie Powell

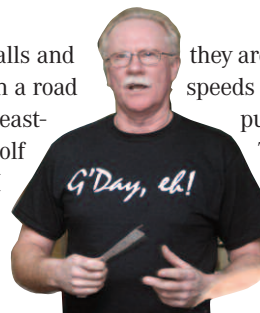


The last airworthy B17 is kept operational with plenty of volunteer effort.
Photo by Charlie Powell.

I finished looking for lost golf balls and returned to Winnipeg. I was on a road trip (last presidents report) to eastern Manitoba to check out three golf courses with some friends when I should have been writing something for the August Yarn, sorry. Thankfully the VP stepped up to the plate and put pen to paper in my absence. For those golfers among you, Buffalo Point is a very nice course with holes on the water, Links at Quarry Oaks is challenging and the Steinbach Fly In GC is OK too. You can play golf and watch skydivers at the same time. We did 63 holes in two days plus I also did 18 on the Friday in a fun tournament to make a grand total of 81 holes in three days and still my game is no better than when I started, who says practice makes perfect.

I was also at the DUCW golf tournament organised by Peter Munn and attended by those golf players in the club who like an afternoon on the links. Fun if not birdies was had by all. Thank you to Mr Munn.

You may or may not know that Emirates Team New Zealand has advanced to the America's Cup challenge after winning the Louis Vuitton Cup over Luna Rossa of Italy 7-1. They now go up against the defender Oracle Team USA starting Sept 7th in a best of 17 series. If you haven't seen these boats,



president's ramblings

Terry Roberts

they are something to see race, with speeds up to 50mph. Not, I think, for the purist but very exciting to watch. The sailing is taking place in San Francisco Bay which is a very scenic harbour.

GO Team New Zealand! I'd love to see the Cup back in Auckland again. It was a big boom to Auckland and the area.

Hope to see as many of you out at our upcoming events in September and October and don't forget the AGM in November too.

Terry

Good News

Some happy news from the Munn and Somers families: Claire Allison Somers, born August 3, 2013, to Jodi and Chris Somers. Weight 7 lb. 10 oz., 22" long.



And spare a thought for **Norm Griffiths** and **David Denesovych** – both recuperating after stays in hospital.

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Movie a happy little vegemite

Vegemite is to be spread across the big screen after the inventor's grandson sold the movie rights to his book.

Queensland's Jamie Callister is the author of the book, *The Man Who Invented Vegemite*.

It tells the story of his grandfather, a chemist, who created the salty black spread, and his life across two world wars and the Great Depression.

Now Melbourne-based firm The Film Company wants to turn the book into a movie.

[Link]



Queensland banana grower launches banana vending machine

[July 31, 2013 Sophie Langley] A banana grower in Queensland has launched a specially designed fresh banana vending machine in a Brisbane food court.

MacKays Bananas, a family-owned banana growing business, designed the 'Banana Bar' to hold its 'Smart Bananas' at the ideal temperature (12 degrees Celcius), which it says means the bananas will "last longer and taste sweeter", when bought from the machine. The bananas are packed on the Company's farms in Tully, North Queensland, and delivered to the machine daily. The bananas are packaged individually to avoid bruising the fruit.

According to MacKays Bananas, the 'Smart Bananas' were developed by the family two years ago, to supply selected retailers.

"Consumers guided the product creation, desiring us to focus on banana size, taste, environmental impact and grower authenticity," said Daniel MacKay, third generation farmer for Mackays Bananas.

The Company said the food court – Post Office Square, Brisbane – was selected because of its large traffic flow of commuters from the central train station and its busy food court. It said sites for future vending machines will be guided by consumer response, but that possible locations include universities, hospitals, schools and other public places.

The vending machine accepts coins, notes and credit cards, according to Mackays Bananas. The bananas are available for \$2 for a 3-pack, and \$3 for a 5-pack.

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Local yarn's luxury fibre reaches US Vogue Knitters

With the resurgence in hand knitting and all things handcrafted, a local yarn company is spinning a name for itself with its luxury natural fibre yarn product especially for hand knitting.

Woolyarns New Zealand, of Wellington, produces an exclusive range of brands for both the textile manufacturing and hand knitting markets internationally.

Woolyarns Zealana hand knitting yarn attracted the attention of Vogue Knitting USA magazine's Chief Editor.

Trisha Malcolm, Vice President and Chief Editor of Vogue Knitting, USA will visit Woolyarns factory in Lower Hutt to experience first-hand how the Zealana fibre yarn is produced.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for us to show other yarn enthusiasts

how our premium hand knitting yarn is made," said Woolyarns' Marketing Manager, Jimad Khan.

Vogue Knitting and Woolyarns held a 'Zealana Design Competition' at the end of 2012. As part of the prize package, the winner, from Japan, visited Woolyarns and New Zealand for seven days.

Brushtail possum is a renowned pest in New Zealand, but its fibre is super soft and prized for its lightweight warmth and breathability. Possum for Zealana yarn is collected and blended with merino or cashmere.

Woolyarns uses 40 – 50 tonnes of possum fibre annually across its product range. This is equivalent to the fibre from more than 1 million possums.

Hand knitting is enjoying a come-back in New Zealand and internationally. De rigour during the 1960s and 70s, the art of knitting lost popularity as women became too busy, clothing became cheaper and trends changed. With today's focus on our environmental footprint and general trend towards self sufficiency, knitting is once again becoming popular.

www.woolyarns.co.nz



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Laurie Morris

Though Laurie was born in Canada, she holds dual Citizenship with New Zealand.

She was born in Brockville, Ontario, and took her elementary schooling in Maynard and Prescott. At Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology in Toronto she graduated with her Diploma in Law Enforcement and Crime Detection.

Laurie was on a holiday in New Zealand about 30 years ago when she subsequently met a kiwi and married where she resided for almost a decade.

Laurie was in New Zealand as a police-woman in the Federal Police at Christchurch. She was trained at The Royal New Zealand Police College in Porirua. After 10 years and several trips to Canada, it was back to Brockville, Ontario in 1996 where she joined the Ontario Provincial Police and is currently posted at the Kenora Detachment of the OPP. She has been in policing for 25 years.

In December 2011, Laurie went back to NZ for a month. She was in Christchurch when earthquakes hit again. She was also in Kek-



erengu, Papatowai, Invercargil and Queenstown. Not all quakes are felt but it made the front page of the Christchurch Press.

She joined the DUCW in 2007.

Laurie plans to go back to New Zealand again. Hope she makes it soon!

Gordon Keatch

Brad Pitt is portraying Laurie's mom's Great Great Grandfather Samuel Bass in the up coming movie *12 years a Slave* based on

the book written by Solomon Northup in 1853 upon his liberation from slavery. He shared his situation to Bass in confidence, risking serious consequences and Bass contacted through letters to his family.

"Mom and my Aunty are the oldest living direct descendants of Bass and were interviewed recently by a Brad Pitt representative with a camera crew", says Laurie. The book is an interesting and verified history pre-dating the civil war in the states, and is available free online.

100yearsago

history from downunder

Lost WW1 Digger photos

A REMARKABLE collection of 180 photographs depicting a Digger's view of life in the trenches during World War I has surfaced nearly 100 years later.

The incredible pictures were taken on a Kodak vest pocket camera and vividly illustrate conditions at Gallipoli in 1915 and the stark contrast with more relaxing times for soldiers in Egypt between campaigns.

In one particularly striking image, two soldiers relax on sleeping platforms cut into the sides of a trench. Their faces show the strain of war as a book lies closed between them.

Private George (Eric) Cherry served with the 6th Field Ambulance at Gallipoli from August 1915 until the Australians retreated in December of that year. By March 1915 he was back at home in Melbourne to resume his studies for a medical degree.

In his kit was the collection of films from his camera that survived five months in the trenches.

The collection remained in the possession of his daughter, Lois, until the mid-1980s when she handed them to Michael Lean, a photographic expert at Queensland University of Technology.

Lean produced some proof-sheets for her, but she never returned to collect the negatives and they remained with him until this year when he gave them to the Maroochy RSL Museum on the Sunshine Coast.

Volunteer at the museum Drew Wall couldn't believe his eyes when he examined the negatives and the



soldier's photos offer insight into WWI Digger's world.

powerful, grainy images depicting life on the front line and the tourist spots of Egypt, including the Sphinx.

"When I first saw them I was quite emotional, they reflected a soldier's view of the world," the ex-CMF artilleryman said.

"I have a brother-in-law in the film industry and he and I decided that we had something pretty rare and valuable so we blew some up for display at the dawn service this year.

"We are very pleased to be the custodians of these precious images."

Private Cherry was educated at Geelong College and came from a well to do Victorian family so he was able to finance his photographic hobby and as a medic he was able to carry plenty of film with him to Gallipoli.

One person who was as sur-

continued on page 6



Melbourne student shot dead “for the fun of it” by Oklahoma teens

Three teenaged boys in a car, bored in the hot Oklahoma summer, followed a jogging Australian collegiate baseball player and killed him with a shot to the back for “the fun of it.”

Prosecutors charged two of the teens with the murder of Christopher Lane, 22, of Melbourne. He died on the city street where he fell. He was attending school in the U.S. on a sports study scholarship.

As the boys appeared in an Oklahoma courtroom, a 17-year-old blurted out, “I pulled the trigger,” then wept after a judge told him that the hearing wasn’t the time or place to sort out the facts of the case.

Prosecutor Jason Hicks called the boys “thugs” as he told Stephens County Judge Jerry Herberger how Lane was shot.

Chancey Allen Luna, 16, and James Francis Edwards, Jr., 15, of Duncan were charged with first-degree murder and, under Oklahoma law, will be tried as adults. Michael Dewayne Jones, 17, of Duncan was accused of using a vehicle in the discharge of a weapon and accessory to first-degree murder after the fact. He is considered a young offender but will be tried in adult court.

“I’m appalled,” Hicks said after the hearing. “This is not supposed to happen in this community.”

In court, Hicks said Luna was sitting in the rear seat of a car when he pulled the trigger on a .22 caliber revolver. Jones was driving the vehicle and Edwards was in the passenger seat.

The trio who decided to kill someone for fun, police said, ambushed Lane, who was in the U.S. to study and play with Essendon Baseball Club.

Indian Rupee drops to record low, central bank steps in

The Indian rupee slumped against the US dollar surprising many late last month. The drop to 64 and bond yields (off as much as 1.6%) spiked to a five-year high stirred nervousness before the central bank stepped in to support the currency.

Being Asia’s third-largest economy, India bore the brunt of the global emerging markets selloff.

India’s situation prompted some spicy observations. The Globe and Mail columnist, Richard French commented acidly that “Only

India can stop India from becoming an economic power.” Other views, less optimistic, had Indian bank assets “looking suspect” as the economy freezes.

Australia’s political bosses in feisty election wind-up

Australia’s Sept 7 national election, pitting recently re-installed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd against the opposition’s canny leader Tony Abbott shaped up as a tough one to call as campaign days run out.

Both the gentlemen had “free and frank exchanges” when they met in debate and although the prime minister turned up the heat on the costing of the coalition’s proposed paid parental leave scheme. Audiences seemed to spilt 30-30-30 –government, opposition, undecided – with Rudd on the downside but gaining speed at the gate.

An urgent issue stabbing both major parties is built around immigration policies. The voice of Asian ex-pats, entrenched for decades, is rising and crying foul for Australia’s tough treatment of refugee immigrants, including their diversion to Papua New Guinea. Citizen immigrants point out that they have been nation-builders over the years and current refugee policy smacks of racism.

The big stir in one debate occurred when Mr Rudd refused to assuage his attack on the coalition’s \$5.5 billion a year plan to give working women six months paid parental leave capped at \$75,000.

The Liberal leader later said Mr Rudd had deliberately set out to be feisty and confrontational. Abbott admitted he too was a little “keyed up” before that particular people’s forum.

Mr Rudd quizzed his opponent on plans to cut health funding and how the coalition would pay for the parental leave scheme.

Mr Abbott’s response was the independent Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) had signed off on the funding – which includes a 1.5 per cent levy on more than 3,000 companies, the scrapping of Labor’s scheme and “consequential adjustments”.

A curious feature of the latter days of the campaign concerned media questions about the low quality of candidates contesting the federal election.

The PM talked about the “lowness of parliamentary standards”. Mr Abbott acknowledged that a couple of his candidates had “not exactly covered themselves in glory so far in this campaign”. – With files from AAP

Election Observers head for Maldives

They’re voting for the president in the Mal-

dives on Sept 7 and former prime minister of Malta, Dr Lawrence Gonzi, is to lead a Commonwealth Observer Group.

The party of 17 is in the Maldives from Aug 31 to Sept 14, 2013. Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma constituted the group at the invitation of the Maldives Elections Commission.

The Maldives went through what was called “some very serious times” in 2011 and 2012, with secretariat calling for restraint by opposing parties. It also appointed a special envoy to investigate rights complaints.

Also, the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) had expressed its deep concern over political and leadership conflicts.

Big Kiwi aluminum smelter saved in “coincidental” last hours deal

NZ’s giant aluminum plant, which sucks a huge wattage of profitable hydro power from a remote western lake reservoir, has got a break.

Talk of shutdown has stopped. Owner of the mighty smelter at Tiwai, opposite the port city of The Bluff, scrapped plans to sell off the operation just hours after an electricity deal was signed to secure the smelter’s immediate future.

Rio Tinto announced it had abandoned the attempted sale of its cluster of unwanted Australasian aluminum assets, known as Pacific Aluminium (and NZ’s huge aluminum plant has got a break). The owner of the mighty smelter at Tiwai, Rio Tinto chief executive Sam Walsh said the timing of the two announcements being so close together “was purely coincidental.”

The Tiwai smelter will now be integrated back into Rio Tinto’s Alcan group.

Murray Burt writes this Commonwealth column to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world that doesn’t get the news attention it deserves. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.

Enjoy.

Murray Burt
President,
Royal Commonwealth Society,
Manitoba Branch

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of members of the Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc., will be held at 7 pm, Friday, November 29th, 2013 at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre at 764 Erin Street, Winnipeg.

Agenda: Roll Call — Secretary's Report — Committee Reports — Election of Officers — Other Business — Close of AGM

Election: All Club members in good standing are eligible to put their names forward for any position on the Board: President — Vice President — Treasurer — Secretary — Social Coordinator — Membership — Newsletter Editor

If anyone is interested and willing to take on any of these positions, please contact Gordon Keatch at 832-4405, or attend the meeting and let your name stand.

Early shopping

For Christmas shopping, keep in mind ... Scandinavian Centre's

Annual Christmas Market and Café

Sunday, December 1, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Imported Foods, crafts, home baking, and a café with a Scandinavian twist..

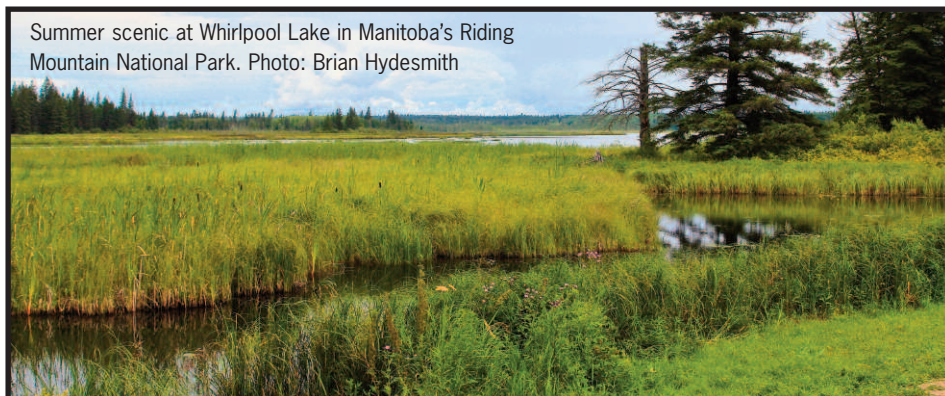
And for a smile

The **English** are feeling the pinch in relation to recent events in Syria and have therefore raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross." The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The **Scots** have raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's get the Bastards." They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from "No worries" to "She'll be right, Mate." Two more escalation levels remain: "Crikey! I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend!" and "The barbie is cancelled." So far no situation has ever warranted use of the last final escalation level.

(Often falsely attributed to John Cleese, this bit of humour has been circulating since at least 2005, adapted to various world events.)



Summer scenic at Whirlpool Lake in Manitoba's Riding Mountain National Park. Photo: Brian Hydesmith

100, continued from page 4

prised as anyone about the collection's existence was Dr Cherry's second daughter, Elizabeth Skerman, who lives in Brisbane.

Among the images is a lovely portrait of Elizabeth and her sister Lois with their father at Laidley where he was the local doctor.

"I never saw the photos until Drew Wall printed them out," she said.

"They are amazing but my father never spoke about the or about the war."

One person who was as

surprised as anyone about the collection's existence was Dr Cherry's second daughter, Elizabeth Skerman, who lives in Brisbane.

Among the images is a lovely portrait of Elizabeth and her sister Lois with their father at Laidley where he was the local doctor.

"I never saw the photos until Drew Wall printed them out," she said.

"They are amazing but my father never spoke about the or about the war."

Mrs Skerman, whose husband Douglas was a member

of bomber command during World War II and was killed in a plane crash in South America in the 1970s, said her father was a quiet man.

Dr Cherry joined the Repatriation Department in Brisbane in the last 1930s and he died in his mid 70s taking the story of his photographs to the grave with him.

Maroochy RSL plans to mount an exhibition of the Cherry photographs next August to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1.

[check this link]



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