

The Southern Yarn

October 2013



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

OCTOBER

Formal Dinner

Saturday October 26th, 6:00 pm

Bailey's Restaurant, 185 Lombard

This is a BIG NIGHT OUT. Join us at the classy Bailey's. You do not need to pre-order, but you MUST RSVP by October 22nd! This is a popular annual event and there is a limit of 40, so book early by contacting Peter Munn at social@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-237-1805. See the menu on this page. Looking forward to formally dining with you!

NOVEMBER

AGM

Friday November 29 - 7:00 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

We look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. Consider taking a turn on the executive – all positions are up for grabs – or just turn up and lend your support to those who keep the cogs turning. It is a good forum for raising suggestions for Club Events or to catch up with mates. The Bar will be open and snacks will be supplied.

DECEMBER

Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner

Sunday December 8th - 4:00 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Santa's elves are busy getting gifts ready for Christmas. He'll be showing up at our party, as usual, so be sure to send in the names and ages of kids who will be present by contacting Margaret Munn at social@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-237-1805. This is a POTLUCK DINNER, and we will need mostly mains, salads and veggie dishes, as well as a few desserts.

RSVP

If you let us know you are coming, we can be ready for you! RSVP to 204-237-1805 or email social@downunderclub.mb.ca.



You can't go wrong with wine and cheese and good friends. Charlie and Judy greeted a gang of members who told tales over a fine selection of wine and cheese.



Whine and Cheese

Friday the 13th September saw a bunch of members enjoying the complimentary wine and cheese at our usual watering hole - the Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St.

A couple of hard luck stories were shared, but all in good fun and it was really a jolly night.

Thanks to Judy Powell for organizing the assortment of cheese platters, grapes and crackers, and Charlie Powell for standing in as bartender.

Next stop, the formal dinner!

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 call 204-955-0393.

Formal Dinner Saturday, October 26th

Menu

\$35.00 (+ taxes and a 15% gratuity)

8 oz. Filet Mignon — beef tenderloin, char-broiled to your specifications

Chicken "Poseidon" — breast of chicken filled with crab, baby shrimp, and herbed cream cheese

Veal Scaloppini a la Porto — medallions of Provimi veal tenderloin gently sautéed and served with a Port wine reduction

Mediterranean Seafood — jumbo prawns, scallops and Atlantic salmon sautéed in olive oil, with sun-dried tomatoes, olives, herbs, and feta cheese, finished with white wine

Rack of New Zealand Lamb — a seven-point rack roasted and glazed in a delicate herb reduction

All meals include:

- salad of Manitoba Field Greens with a creamy cucumber and dill dressing
- fresh rolls
- oven-roasted lemon potatoes
- the Chef's selected vegetables
- coffee or tea

And a glass of wine compliments of the Club Gonna be great, so see you there!

online



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

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,

Did you know that ..

- Comedian **Bob Hope** played his first game of golf in Winnipeg;
- Winnipeg was the first city in Canada to establish a **United Way** charity;
- the **Harlequin Romance** publishing empire began in Winnipeg;
- Winnipeg was the first city in the world to develop the **911** emergency phone number;
- The **Royal Winnipeg Ballet** is Canada's oldest and North America's second oldest dance company;
- in addition to producing coins for Canada, Winnipeg's **Royal Canadian Mint** has minted currency for more than 70 countries around the globe;
- the international polling company **Angus Reid** began in Winnipeg;
- **Assiniboine Forest** in Winnipeg is the largest urban nature park in Canada and home to 80 species of birds;
- the bear cub that inspired the **Winnie the Pooh** stories was named for the city of Winnipeg, and
- **Sir William Stephenson**, (known as 'The Man Called Intrepid') and the likely inspiration for James Bond, was born and raised in Winnipeg.

That is not just an easy way to fill the space for this Editorial; it is a reminder of only a few of the facts that make our City rather unique! Another one is that Winnipeg is home to possibly one of the oldest Downunder Clubs in the world! And what's even more unique is that at every event, you'll see Aussies and Kiwis actually getting along quite well together! Come and see for yourself - the Dinner at Bailey's on the 26th is a great opportunity. You might meet Ian and Catherine Bowering there - Gordon's members of interest this month. The Club is providing a complimentary glass of wine and accents will be flowing strong.

Murray Burt again is keeping us in the know on happenings in our part of the Commonwealth; thanks also to Ed Powell and Brian Hydesmith.

Enjoy!

Well another month has passed. New Zealand didn't regain the (America's) Cup, but it took a kiwi to keep it from them. I could say so much more but I am going to let it go, calmmmm. Have you noticed that anyone wanting the cup employs a New Zealander, does that tell you something?!

president's ramblings

Terry Roberts



As I write this I am in Thunder Bay working. A very nice place to be working - installing blinds on the new Thunder Bay Consolidated Courthouse. So long as they don't send me downstairs and lock the door, (holding cells are down there) I'll be OK.

Hope to see you at the Formal Dinner this month.

Book early for a great night out!

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 on **Friday, November 29th** at 7:00 pm, 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 you are interested and willing to take on any of these positions, contact Gordon Keatch at 204-832-4405, or attend the meeting and let your name stand.

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Miserable looking Australian blobfish outpolls NZ's kakapo to be named world's ugliest animal

A slimy pink Australian fish which resembles a grumpy and obese old man with a bulbous nose has been voted the world's ugliest animal.

The blobfish, which lives in deep waters off the southern Australian coast, has been named as the mascot of the British-based Ugly Animal Preservation Society, which aims to protect the world's weird and wonderful creatures.

More than 3,000 people contributed to an online poll aimed at raising awareness of unsightly species that play an important role in the ecological web.

Living at depths of up to one kilometre, the blobfish or *Psychrolutes marcidus* is capable of enduring otherwise crushing pressures at great depth, but is becoming a casualty of deep-sea trawling.

The British Science Association announced the results at an annual festival in Newcastle, north-eastern England.

"It was a clear winner, snatching 795 votes," spokeswoman Coralie Young said.

The runner-up was New Zealand's kakapo, a rare flightless owl-like parrot, and third was the axolotl, a Mexican amphibian also called the "walking fish".

Other candidates were the proboscis monkey, which has red genitals, a big nose and a pot belly, and the Titicaca water frog, which also goes under the less-than-scientif-

ic moniker of "scrotum frog".

"It's a light-hearted way to make people think about conservation," Ms Young said.

The blobfish's reward is to be enshrined as the official mascot of the Ugly Animal Preservation Society, a loose association of stand-up comedians who humorously champion endangered but visually unappealing species.

"The Ugly Animal Preservation Society is dedicated to raising the profile of some of Mother Nature's more aesthetically challenged children," it says on its website.

"The panda gets too much attention."

ABC/AFP [from Eddie Powell] [link]



Australians drinking less beer..

Beer consumption hits a 66 year low in Australia, but wine is still growing

Australian tastes are swinging away from beer and towards wine, but Australians are drinking a little less alcohol overall, according to figures released 18 September 2013 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

"Beer is now at its lowest point in 66 years," said Louise Gates from the ABS. "Even so, that means that there are still 4.1 litres of pure alcohol available from beer for every person in Australia aged 15 years and over," she said.

While Australians are consuming less beer per person - a downwards trend that the ABS said started in the 1970s - there has been an increase in wine consumption.

"In terms of pure alcohol available for consumption, beer was down 2.3 per cent in 2011-12 (compared with the previous year),

while wine rose 1.9 per cent," Ms Gates said. "Ready-to-drink beverages have also seen a drop and were down by 2.5 per cent, while spirits have seen the largest fall, down by a full 4 per cent," she said. Read here: [link]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



New songbird family discovered in NZ

Scientists have identified a new family of songbirds comprising three species in New Zealand.

A NEW FAMILY OF endemic songbirds has been identified in New Zealand.

The Mohouidae family includes three species of forest-dwelling birds, one of which is endangered. While the family has been written about anecdotally since the 1950s, there has been no solid evidence of its existence until now.

"Mohoua [birds] had earlier been placed into a family called the Pachycethalid and researchers had questioned for a while whether they really fitted there," says Zak Aidala, a PhD candidate at City University in New York City, USA, who spearheaded the project.

"Our analysis shows that the mohoua really don't belong in that family, they belong in their own - endemic to New Zealand."

Read more here: [link]

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Ian and Catherine Bowering

Interviews for these articles are generally by phone, but when the Bowerings were contacted they felt the personal visit would be necessary. So that was arranged and shortly into our discussions it became clear that their story was complicated, and at times, poignant. See if you agree.

Ian was born in Melbourne, Australia, and when he was young the family operated a seasonal milk bar and general store for six years at Rye, a seaside resort town south of Melbourne on the Mornington Peninsula of Port Phillip Bay. They then moved to Frankston where Ian attended high school and worked as a pharmacy assistant. Next was one year at pharmacy college, where he failed.

In 1968 he worked as a clerk at Prince Henry's Hospital in Melbourne for 5 ½ years. It was there he met his first wife, Chris, who had come from Germany. They married in 1973. Ian by then had risen to CEO of Alexandra District Hospital. Two children were born – Ann in 1976 and James three years later. Today, Ann, an accountant, lives in Sydney and James works at an Audi dealership in Melbourne.

In 1984 Ian moved to suburban Melbourne and worked at Maroondah Hospital for 15 years as Deputy CEO. Chris worked in schools as an Administrative Officer until 2004 and sadly died the next year. From 1986 to 1992 he took night school courses at Deakin University and earned a Certified Practising Accountant's Degree. Ian "retired" in January 2000, but the following month went back to work as (of all things!) a welder of wrought iron fences. Later in 2000 he became Retail Business Manager for Clark Rubber Retail, a diversified company into foam rubber, latex, outdoor furniture and swimming pools. This required travelling all around Australia which he did for 3 ½ years until Chris became ill.

Catherine, a Winnipegger, grew up in East Kildonan where she attended Miles MacDonell to grade 12, and onto University of Winnipeg for a B.A. in Political Science, History and French. She was an exchange student to Saint-Félicien, Quebec, for two weeks and is quite fluent in French.



In 1971 she married her high school sweetheart, Doug. Three children followed – James in 1975, Craig in '78, and Kimberley the next year. In 1983 Catherine returned to the U of W and earned a B.Ed. three years later. She taught at Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate and from 1989 at River East School Division doing substitute and part-time work. For the last eight years she had permanent work at Neil Campbell School. She was active in divisional teachers' association local affairs.

In 1998 her husband Doug died suddenly. In 2004 she toured Great Britain and Ireland and met Ian Parker from Australia. It was love at first sight! He came to Winnipeg for three months and in September 2005 they were married. Two weeks later he was diagnosed with cancer and died that December.

In February 2006 she was at an Eastern Palliative Care meeting in Melbourne and met Ian Bowering. In August that year she came back to Winnipeg and in November Ian came here for a visit. In January 2007 Catherine went back to Oz and they have been back and forth since.

In December 2009 they were married in Winnipeg. She has a home in Transcona and Ian has one in Lilydale, Victoria. So they spend our winters in Oz and summers here.

Ian is very interested in ride-on miniature trains and has his own steam locomotive. He is a member of the Assiniboine Valley Railway and the Manitoba Live Steamers.

Told you their stories had a complicated and poignant side.

Gordon Keatch

Pilot humour:

Pilots fill out forms to convey to mechanics any problems encountered during the flight, that need repair or correction. Mechanics read and correct the problem, then respond in writing what remedial action was taken before the next flight. Ground crews and engineers have a sense of humor. Here are some apparently logged maintenance complaints and problems as submitted by pilots and the solution recorded by maintenance engineers.

(P = The problem logged by the pilot.)

(S = The solution / action by the mechanics.)

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.
S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.
P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.
S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: *Something tightened in cockpit.*

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: *Live bugs on back-order.*

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent.

S: *Cannot reproduce problem on ground.*

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: *Evidence removed.*

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: *DME volume set to more believable level.*

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: *That's what they're there for.*

P: IFF inoperative.

S: *IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.*

P: Suspected crack in windshield.

S: *Suspect you're right.*

P: Number 3 engine missing.

S: *Engine found on right wing after brief search.*



Big news made in the Commonwealth, but media ignores the name

This column was created originally because many of us thought that the Commonwealth and its stories were not given the visibility they deserved in an important Commonwealth country like Canada.

Well, last month, it could have changed. We had Commonwealth nation sagas (mainly horror or shabby, sad pieces) nearly every day, on every newspaper and every newscast.

We had the shocker in Nairobi, Kenya. There were bad earthquakes in Baluchistan, Pakistan's poorest province. There were 130 deaths in a week of terrorist bombing in Peshawar, in Pakistan's trouble northeast. There was a submarine disaster in Mumbai and a shocking apartment collapse there. There was the sailing disaster in San Francisco, when Kiwi America's cup sailors had an 8-1-race lead, only to lose in the last race to the Americans and losing the cup 9-8. And on and on. There was election funny business in the Maldives. There were shocking arrests in The Gambia.

So these Commonwealth stories made the headlines, but in not one media version was there a reference to the Commonwealth – the uniting body that represents 54 nations of the world and a third of the world's population.

Next only next in size to the United Nations, with a lot more commonality than the UN, the media and government ignore the Commonwealth. I can't think why. Gross apathy, is my only guess. Let's press to change that in our schools, our councils and our governments. – MB.

Oz-versus-Kiwi fight over vanilla leaves bad taste in many mouths

If you are a vanilla fan, pause. It's leaving a bad taste in some Australasian mouths. Indeed, it is the subject of a strident scrap on Vava'u in Tonga, over the South Pacific island's lucrative vanilla crop.

Two families, one from Australia, the other from New Zealand, are in a shabby tittle-tattle. What's your flavor in this row?

A family-owned Tauranga company, Heilala Vanilla, has been growing vanilla, the world's second most expensive spice, on Vava'u in Tonga for more than 10 years. No competition until last year.

That's when the Brisbane-based Himstedt family company, Queen Fine Foods, arrived.

It came in with a fat wallet and dispensed T\$500,000 (\$364,000) to local farmers to boost their production. It was appealing but it locked the growers into a five-year supply contract and won the backing of Tonga's agriculture minister, Sangster Saulala.

Vanilla is a smart product to have a stake in. The price for world benchmark Madagascar vanilla grew 100 per cent in 12 months.

The Kiwis' Heilala outfit has its own boutique brand with creative marketing.

On the other hand, Queen sells vanilla in small medicine bottles and controls supermarket shelf space.

Relationships between the two families are chilly, to say the least. Heilala's John Ross reckons Queen is "only trying to get rid of us". Queen's Sam Himstedt responds he's not throwing stones. He just has a better deal for farmers

A little history:

In 2002 Ross, a retired Kiwi dairy farmer, with his Papakura Rotary Club's support, helped Vava'u locals repair damage after a catastrophic cyclone. A local family offered Ross four hectares of land to develop as an organic vanilla farm, growing 2500 Madagascar bourbon vanilla seedlings. His first harvest in 2005 was 40 kilograms. Last year it was nearly five tons, which included beans purchased from other farmers.

When Queen arrived last year he said the Tongan Government asked it to help revive vanilla. So Queen pays 257 growers an upfront fee of T\$3 a plant and fixes the vanilla price at T\$13 a kilo for green beans for five years. Those on contract were warned sales to anyone but Queen's would lead to court action.

Government told Ross he was paying farmers too much, at T\$25. Ross says he has been threatened with legal action because Heilala's higher price was encouraging Queen growers to break their contracts.

"It is none of their business who I buy vanilla from ... we will give them money, they give us beans."

Boggiss says Queen growers "were effectively screwed" on price and some growers had approached them to buy their crop. She said another grower on Vava'u, who did not initially sign up with Queen's, was pressured. He was told, she said, that the plan was to get rid of Heilala.

"They have looked at us, and we have annoyed them ... They have looked at our story and say this is an easy way to cut them off at the knees and this is a way to end them and then duplicate our feel-good story."

Himstedt, who is part of the family that

owns the century-old Queen, denied they were trying to end Heilala.

"Honestly, our story up there is simply we were asked, many times by various people, over the last year or so, to help out in the industry."

America's Cup loss, likely NZ's last dabbling with sailing billionaires

The Kiwis' aching loss in the America's Cup saga in San Francisco last month does not augur well for the nation's future association with the oldest exotic yacht-racing event of modern times.

The New Zealand newspaper headlines were calmly matter of fact. After leading the exhaustively long series by 8 wins to 1, it begged credulity that the Kiwis would lose 8-9.

It's likely Team New Zealand will not be around tomorrow, let alone in four years' time, when the next edition of billionaire Larry Ellison's cup is dished up.

New Zealand's cup dream is over altogether, unless some normality and reality can be brought into the equation.

Competition will be the poorer without the Kiwis, who have been the dominant force since the challenger series was initiated 30 years ago in Perth.

Without Team New Zealand competitiveness and commonsense this year, the cup would have been an absolute disaster.

They brought some to an event lacking both.

As Fairfax news service pointed out:

"In the end, they were overwhelmed by the excesses that now dominate the oldest competition in sport, the showmanship and spec tinkering that have robbed the event of some of its dignity.

"Ellison's millions were like a tidal wave the Kiwis couldn't escape. He found the best sailors and they got the best out of a tweaked boat.

"As Team New Zealand boss, Grant Dalton, warned, the fastest boat will always grind you down ... But not even Dalton could have believed all of the fighting talk from 1-8 down could blow his team across the line. That it did, mixing good fortune – three New Zealand leads were denied by the elements – with superb sailing.

"As a deflated Kiwi skipper Dean Barker said, credit where credit's due."

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.

100 years ago

history from downunder

Canberra is 100

The international competition to select a design for the layout of Australia's capital city was awarded 100 years ago to American architect Walter Burley Griffin and, arguably, his architect wife. While a variety of names were suggested for the capital, on 12 March 1913, the city was officially named Canberra. Canberra Day is celebrated on the second Monday of March.

A half century later, Lake Burley Griffin fills

In 1963, 50 years after the construction of Canberra began, its central lake received its first drops of water.

AT 10:30AM ON 20 September 1963 Gordon Freeth, then the minister for the interior, officially closed the valves on Canberra's new Scrivener Dam. Despite drought and concerns over snags and soil in the lake, water spurted down into the empty bed of Lake Burley Griffin, filling it for the first time.

For locals crowding the top of the dam it was a long-awaited milestone, finally taking place more than 50 years after building began on their planned city.

Two-thousand people, including diplomats, members of Parliament and 500 schoolchildren, jostled for a spot to see water gush from the 33m-high and 319m-long dam wall.

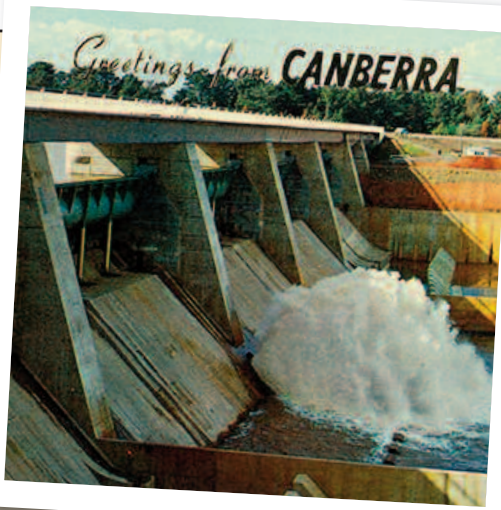
A capital design

It was a big step for the city, although not without its hiccups. Then Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies was supposed to turn the valves off, however he had a fever and was replaced by Gordon Freeth at the last minute. The lake and dam had also been the subject to questions about health prospects and flood resistance.

Nonetheless, the event stirred emotions. The next day the *The Canberra Times* wrote: "The fulfilment of the lakes must be regarded as something far more important than the mere provision of facilities for aquatic sports for the residents of the national capital.

"Although the lakes have been artificially created, they represent as essential a feature in the creation of the national capital as do well-planned streets and gardens and monumentally conceived architecture."

Work on Scrivener Dam had begun in September 1960 and moved faster than expected due to a stretch of dry days caused by the drought.



However, the drought also meant that for seven months after the lake had begun to fill, it featured just a few pools of stagnant water and an army of mosquitoes.

Prospects looked grim for an Australian rowing championship scheduled for April 1964, as well as yachting and rowing clubs and a water speed-record attempt.

The Canberra dream is realised

However, in April 1964 the drought broke and the lake filled in a few days, finally giving Canberra's central area its intended character. After half a century, Canberra would finally shrug off a reputation as two villages separated by a floodplain.

The Scrivener Dam was named after Charles Robert Scrivener (1855-1923), the surveyor who recommended the site for Canberra in 1909 and also had a huge input into the lake's design.

American architect Walter Burley Griffin designed Canberra's layout with three connected lakes, but Scrivener recommended a single lake created by a dam.

Controlled by five hydraulically-operated fish-belly flap gates, the Scrivener Dam's German-designed gates were chosen specially to allow the precise control of water level required to keep the lake clean. It was also designed for the possibility of a one-in-5000 year flood, although all five of its gates have only opened once, in 1976.

Text by Natsumi Penberthy

http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/scrivener-dam-opens.htm?emv_mid=503150&emv_rid=892515911

GALLERY OF CANBERRA'S NATIONAL TREASURES: <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/canberra-guide-to-our-nations-treasures.htm>



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