

# The Southern Yarn

November 2013



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

## downundercalendar

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:social@downunderclub.mb.ca).

#### Are your Membership dues paid for 2014?

Individual \$20 ... Couple/family \$30 ... 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](mailto:peter@pdlactg.ca) or 204-955-0393.



## Annual (somewhat) formal dinner

A wonderful night was had by all at our annual 'not-so-formal' formal dinner. Twenty members wined, dined and conversed the evening away in a beautifully decorated room at Bailey's Restaurant in The Exchange.

After catching up with good friends and meeting a few relatively new faces, Peter Munn got the evening underway with a heartfelt welcome on behalf of the DUCW executive. The Club generously provided a round of wine for everyone, which perfectly accompanied the delicious eats on offer. Compliments to the chefs!

This event is always a highlight on our calendar, and although a smaller group than in previous years, we shared lots of laughs and some really fun and interesting stories.

Thanks to Peter and Margaret Munn for all the behind-the-scenes arranging with Bailey's, Brian Hydesmith for taking great photos during the evening, to Ian and Catherine Bowering for introducing us to Claire Walpole (see below), to Charlie Powell for confirming that we are all alive and well (see page 2), and to Peter Debenham for providing the quote of the evening – "I can taste the lamb better with the leg".

Jenny Gates

### WELCOME CLAIRE WALPOLE

Ian and Catherine Bowering brought a guest to the formal dinner. Heralding from Melbourne, Claire Walpole is a friend of the son (Ben) of one of their good friends. Back in June when they were in Oz, Ian and Catherine attended a musical theatre performance with Ben and his mum. Ben mentioned that Claire was coming to Winnipeg to do a term/semester in food sciences as an exchange student from Deakin Uni. On Labour Day weekend when Claire arrived in Winnipeg, Ian and Catherine met her and helped her settle into residence at the U of M.

"Claire is a lovely young woman and we wish she could be here longer," said Catherine. "We are of the opinion that she has quite 'warmed' to Winnipeg and may consider returning sometime in the future." Always welcome, Claire, and hopefully we'll see you again before you leave.



online



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**G'day,** Well, by the time you get this, the 2013 Melbourne Cup will have been decided and one speedy steed will be still bragging in the barn. Marketed as "the race that stops a nation", as Wikipedia points out: "the race that stops 2 nations" would be more accurate, since New Zealanders also show keen interest. Comic Court was the winner the year I was born - I don't remember that; I remember Rain Lover winning two straight in the 60s; the winner in '91 - the year we came to Canada - was Let's Elope; since then Makybe Diva has set possibly a never-to-be-broken record of 3 straight wins ('03 - '05). Whichever equine super athlete takes it home this year, his or her owner is going to walk away with one of the world's richest turf race purses. Among all the conversations during the dinner at Bailey's, one suggestion was that the DUCW could host a "Hat and Chicken" event next year - perhaps with a little bubbly, too - could be fun! Anyway there's a bit more info on the history of the Cup on p. 3.

The dinner was a very enjoyable event - thanks in no small part to the superb 7-point rack of lamb! But also because I was able to educate and entertain a little with a simple demonstration of a phenomenon I recently learned of. Check page 6 for more details and perhaps we can pursue this further over a pint at the Annual Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> - you are coming, aren't you!?

Read on and get to know Russ and Joy Hood - thanks to Gordon Keatch. You'll also come across a beaut recipe for *Babi Ketjap* which we enjoyed at the Pool Party in July - generously shared by Wayne Dietrich.

Murray Burt again is keeping us in the know on happenings in our part of the Commonwealth; thanks also to Ed Powell for the bit on the Royal Australian Navy's 100 year anniversary celebration, and especially to Brian Hydesmith for arranging these pages so professionally.

Enjoy!

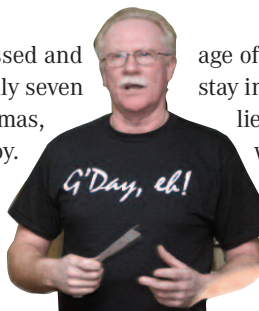
Another month has passed and November is here. Only seven more weeks to Christmas, how the summer has flown by.

But before we get to that, we have the Annual General Meeting on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 7pm.

All members in good standing can stand for a position on the board of directors, or vote on any business which might arise from the meeting.

This year all positions are open to any member who wishes to stand. I will not be standing for president this year as I feel it is time for someone else to lead. I will still be on the board as past president and able to give my thoughts to the board (not always appreciated though) but as I have been president now for quite a few years and both vice-president and president prior to that for a number of years it's time for change as they say in politics, new blood with new ideas on how the club should go forward.

In the last few years the club has lacked something. We are not getting the numbers out to many of the events which used to be crowded. The club is going through a change and that is one reason to get some new blood onto the board. Maybe some new ideas will help. I know that in this day and



president's  
ramblings

Terry Roberts

age of email and web cams it is easier to stay in contact with back home and families, so the appeal of getting together with fellow countryfolk has lost a bit of its lustre. With the faster pace of life, things get put to one side because of time restraints or family. Maybe someone else in the club can encourage more people to come out and find that something special only the Down Under Club provides.

Please come out to the AGM and support the club and board of directors, who are the heart beat of the club. They try very hard to keep the club going and the members involved. Your support will be much appreciated and with your help the club will grow.

**Best wishes, Peggy!** We recently learned through her daughter Yvonne that long-time DUCW member Peggy Tume has been in Deer Lodge Centre for about six weeks, recovering from some health issues. I visited her three times and she appears to be responding well to her treatment and may return home shortly. We wish Peggy all the best and hope everything turns out as planned. *Gordon Keatch*

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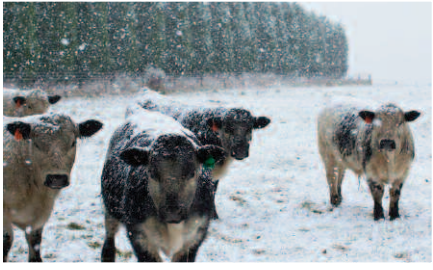
Any members that book flights to Australia or New Zealand during the month of November using our new Online Booking System will receive CAD50 off the price of their airfare!  
(For the discount to apply: Must be a member to enter. Must enter the code DUT YWG 50 into the Discount Voucher area in Step 3 of your online booking. Once you hit submit, the \$50 will be taken from your airfare total before you pay.

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## Weather extremes

New South Wales is coping its share of extreme weather events this year: bushfires in the Blue Mountains in October; snow in Bathurst and a severe storm on the coast at Sydney in June.



## Melbourne Cup

The first ever running of the Melbourne Cup was on a Thursday in 1861 and assembled a field of seventeen who raced for just 710 gold sovereigns (£710) cash and a in front of a crowd of around 4000 people.

The Etienne De Mestre trained Archer was the first winner of what would go on to become Australia's most famous race and

was ridden by John Cutts and ran a time of 3.52.00.

History has it that Archer travelled by the steamboat 'City Of Melbourne' along with his trainer to take his place in the Melbourne Cup. To prove it wasn't a fluke, Archer won the race the following year in front of 7000 people to win 810 gold sovereigns (£810) cash and a gold watch, to become the first dual winner of the Melbourne Cup.

In 1875 the Melbourne Cup moved to a Tuesday and the following year three-year-old filly Briseis created a slice of history when she won the Victoria Derby, Melbourne Cup and VRC Oaks over a period of six days.

Melbourne Cup Day was declared a public holiday in Victoria in 1877 and just three years later a crowd of more than 100,000 attended Flemington for the first time on Cup day to witness the unbeaten Grand Flareur take out the race that stops a nation.

In 1890 a huge field of 39 horses assembled for the Melbourne Cup and grand galloper Carbine won the race in a then record time of 3.28.25, carrying 65.5 kilograms which was a record weight for the Melbourne Cup. [read more online]

# newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

## Mohua crowned Bird of the Year

The mohua (yellowhead) has been crowned Bird of the Year



Forest & Bird's ninth annual poll. This year over 12,925 votes were cast in this fiercely contested poll, with the mohua snatching 2,473 votes in total, followed by the ruru (1,716) and the southern rockhopper penguin (1,524).

In the 1800s, the splashy yellow bird was one of the most abundant forest birds in the

South Island and Stewart Island. But it is now on the endangered species list, due to habitat loss, predation, and climate change. [read more online]



## Rugby League World Cup 2013: New Zealand 48-0 France

World Cup holders New Zealand made it two wins out of two in Group B with a comfortable victory over France in Avignon.

Half-back Shaun Johnson proved a key figure for the Kiwis, scoring two second-half tries and kicking 16 points.

Sydney Roosters forward Frank-Paul Nu'uausala touched down twice. Krisnan Inu, Bryson Goodwin, Greg Eastwood and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck also crossed for the New Zealand side.

Even without dual-code star Sonny Bill Williams and not always playing the most fluent rugby, the Kiwis were too good against a determined France outfit who beat Papua New Guinea in their opening game.

Victory, which came five days after their 42-24 win over Samoa, gave New Zealand a two-point lead at the top of the group. [read more online]

## New Qualification Supports Sustainable Systems of Food Production

Many more Food Forests are likely to spring up around New Zealand as a new tertiary qualification shows how to produce food in ways which mimic forest eco-systems. Food Forests are a time honoured method of growing food in intentionally designed, highly productive, multi layered systems of mostly perennial plants. [read more online]

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## Russ and Joy Hood

The Hood's association with the DUCW goes back a long way, most notably with some of our Folklorama pavilions. More on that later.

Russ, a P.Eng, was born in Fivedock (Sydney) and attended Fort Street High School, the University of NSW, earning a B. Engineer, Civil. He obtained a Diploma from Sydney Tech in Structural Engineering. He worked for NSW Railways and the NSW Electricity Commission for four years. Wanting to gain experience in pre-stressed concrete, Russ and Joy came to Canada for a couple of years in 1958, and worked in Calgary with Underwood McClelland, then on to Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg. He retired in 1996 after 38 years with them, lastly as Manager and Vice-President, Corporate Strategic Planning.

During his working years, Russ served on the National Capital Commission for six years. They are responsible for supervising all the Capital grounds and Buildings in Ottawa and Hull, PQ. He was President of the Council of Professional Engineers of Canada (150,000 members), the Engineering Institute of Canada (30,000 members) for three



years and the Manitoba Association of Professional Engineers. He served on the Board of the Victoria Hospital in Winnipeg for 12 years and was Chair for four. His wife, Joy, was also Chair of the Guild and member of the Board, and also served as chair of the Manitoba association of Hospital Guilds.

Russ chaired the Manitoba Research Council for five years and was Founding Chair of the Manitoba Innovation Council. He has helped raise funds for the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Engineering, and received an Award of Merit from the University. He has been a Rotarian for years.

Russ and I golfed at Niakwa G.C. and he also played tennis, soccer, and curling.

My best recollection of Russ and Joy was at our Folklorama pavilions at Holy Cross Gymnasium. Lamb chops and sausages were on the menu, and Russ was in charge of cooking. We bought a BBQ, which, of course, had to be outside, and the Health Department made us rig up a cover to protect the food from flying birds! So, we used a large golf umbrella to do the trick. Russ also worked the bar and kitchen, along with Joy. Some of their children and grandchildren helped out as well.

Joy Wright is also a Sydney-sider (Kogarah), where she went from elementary to intermediate school. For four years, she apprenticed as a dressmaker and worked at it for eight. One of her Clients was the Queen of Tonga. She likes curling, bridge, golfing and swimming, waterskiing and fishing at their Clearwater Bay cottage.

Russ and Joy were married in 1956. They had five children - David (Sylvia), Lynette and Denise (Mike) are in Winnipeg, and Brian (Susan) are in Sydney. Sadly, a daughter, Sandra, died at an early age. They also have sixteen Grandchildren and one Great-grandchild. The Hoods go back to Oz frequently, visiting family there. In fact, they have just returned - in time for our good weather!

Russ has an impressive resume for someone still trying to figure out how a slide rule works!

*Gordon Keatch*

### 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 anyone is interested and willing to take on any of these positions, please contact Gordon Keatch at **204-832-4405**, or attend the meeting and let your name stand.

### Party tricks you can try out at home!

We had fun with this at the formal dinner. Suspend a tea-bag about an inch above your palm (or any body part!); hold it very still and it will start to vibrate slightly and then slowly begin to rotate, usually clockwise. If you're reading this down under, let me know if it's the same down there. It apparently has something to do with the energy field we generate (our aura) and is manipulated or realigned by some credible healing practitioners. It also works above fruit and even a glass of water, so probably has something to do with the art of water-divining. Perhaps we can pursue this further over a pint at the Annual Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> - you are coming, aren't you!?

Charlie Powell





## More Commonwealth funding cuts likely if principles are ignored

Canada has found allies in its protest against Sri Lanka serving as host of the Commonwealth heads of Government and chairing the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group for the next two years.

The support is tentative because those persuaded could quickly succumb to pressure to change their minds before the Nov 17 date but a message is getting through.

Points have been clearly made to the Colombo government about some Commonwealth members' disaffection.

Last month, after Prime Minister Stephen Harper reaffirmed he would not attend, he rubbed salt into the sore by saying Canada would cut Commonwealth some of its \$20-million funding.

Then Britain declared it was cutting £3-million of its Commonwealth funding over concerns about SL's leadership and human rights performance. Next, Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India, bowed to mounting criticism over its forthcoming summit and said he would not attend, but rather send a deputy.

With 50 of the Commonwealth's 53 members prepared to discount the human rights foaraway by gathering in Colombo for CHOGM, Sri Lanka's government perhaps feels it has grounds for feeling cocky. But the resisters are among the most generous nations delivering finances – Britain No.1, Canada No.2 and Australia is No.3.

Austrakia's PM Tony Abbott's presence, however, is regarded as a political measure to strengthen its negotiations against the flight of illegals from Sri Lanka to Australia.

The weeks ahead will likely see other major donors scale back contributions to the Commonwealth budget if change isn't swift.

## Gambian president scathing critic of Commonwealth

President Yahya Jammeh, who late last month declared, with shock to some, that his country has withdrawn from the 54-nation Commonwealth, delivered a savage rationale for his action in this month's issue of the authoritative *New African* magazine. It is his first public response and it expresses no regret in his nation's departure.

Jammeh, whose public remarks of ten have a shock quotient, also calls on other African countries to re-examine their rela-

tionships with "any institution or organizations of a colonial nature, which bring Africa nothing, but poverty, backwardness and exploitation..."

In the magazine article, which has pan-African circulation, he articulates harshly and in detail his real reasons why he took the decision to sever ties.

"The British were here in The Gambia for 400 years, and in that time they only built one high school... Colonialism brought us nothing but poverty, backwardness, exploitation and slavery ... under it, Gambians were not [even] trained to be doctors or scientists."

In the wide-ranging, no-holds-barred interview, with *New African's* deputy editor, Regina Jane Jere, the Gambian president also touches on many other hot issues, such as the much derided International Criminal Court at The Hague (which is headed by one of his own country women Fatou Bensouda). He smacks at foreign aid, good governance and dictatorship, capital punishment and gay rights, as well as farming and his country's resource, including the recent discovery of oil.

The Gambia, population 1,718,000, became a full member of the Commonwealth in February 1965. The capital is Banjul and it has a presidential republic form of government. It often draws international ire for harsh treatment of critics.

## Australia's "lower prices" for gas don't match fill-up in Winnipeg

Nostalgic ex pat Australians may lose a shade off that old homesickness when they compare Winnipeg and hometown Oz gasoline prices.

While we whinge a bit about our 116.9 cents a litre these days, a survey of prices in Australia hometowns show a fill-up can range from 168.3c a litre in Darwin and 162.1c a litre in Hobart. Lowest rates seemed to be in Sydney at 143.4c and Melbourne at 140.7, the cheapest major urban rate, according to a *Sydney Morning Herald* survey. Remember too, one Oz doillar fetches only 98.7 cents CAD.

In Canberra, average petrol price remains steady at 156.4c a litre, despite national averages dropping to four-month lows. Darwin remained the most expensive 168.3c. All this while an Australia dollar fetches 98.7 cents CAD.

Filling up is the single biggest weekly purchase for many Australian families. In September, motorists there paid an average of 157.9c for unleaded fuel.

## NZ firm scores richly with high tech baggage handler in Malaysia

Imaginative engineers at BCS have picked up an extra \$10 million of work at Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

It is supplying a new baggage-handling system, taking the total value of its contract with the airport to \$40 million

BCS has supplied baggage-handling systems to all Australia's major airports, bar Adelaide, for which it was now tendering, he said.

This deal, according to marketing manager Marc Michel, was "one of the largest airport projects of its type ever awarded to a NZ company".

Contracts worth more than \$100m in a year to June had been written, he said. It was a first by BCS.

Business was booming in Asia. It was hastened by a rise of low-cost airlines like AirAsia, Tiger and Scool, hastened by a growing middle class and a spate of ferry disasters in Indonesia and the Philippines.

The EU market was depressed but BCS was also seeing strong growth in North and Central America.

The original contract in Kuala Lumpur was won by BCS three years ago.

The firm is privately owned by its senior management and employs 330 staff.

## Malta PM calls Mediterranean a "cemetery" to refugee boats

The flow of failed state illegal refugees from Africa to Europe in unseaworthy smallcraft is putting huge pressure on Maltese and Italian naval rescue vessels and hospital resources.

The problem is so acute that there are calls by the sea rescuing nations for legislation to control the scandal and transform it to a lawful standard and control.

European states to the north think the opposite. They want tighter limits on immigration from ravaged Africa and the Near East.

In one day last month Maltese vessels recovered 34 bodies and rescued 206 people from a migrant boat that capsized in the southern Mediterranean, a kilometer from shore. Malta PM Joseph Muscat said in an interview with the BBC that he would join Italy in pressing for remedial action at the next European Council.

*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. Enjoy.*

# 100yearsago

history from downunder

## Fireworks spectacular marks 100 years since Royal Australian Navy entered Sydney Harbour

Thousands of people lined the shores of Sydney Harbour to watch a fireworks spectacular on Saturday night marking 100 years since the Royal Australian Navy fleet first entered the harbour.

More than 20 warships from 17 different nations arrived for the International Fleet Review in celebration of Australia's Navy.

The enormous fireworks display lasted 30 minutes. It was the biggest display since the city hosted the Olympic Games, with fireworks launched from city rooftops, the Harbour Bridge and the decks of warships, along with light projections, narration and music.

The Sydney Opera House came alive with Navy imagery and history projected onto its sails, along with the message: "We salute you".

In 1913 seven warships, which formed the beginnings of Australia's Royal Navy, emerged from behind Bradleys Head and entered the harbour.

One hundred years later, contemporary Australian and International warships did the same. Earlier on Saturday Prince Harry joined Governor-General Quentin Bryce in officially reviewing the warships from aboard the HMAS Leeuwin on the harbour.

They were welcomed by a 100-gun salute as crowds of people packed onto the foreshore



looked on. The Prince then met members of the public who had gathered at The Rocks, before heading to Kirribilli House where he was greeted by Prime Minister Tony Abbott and members of his family.

The Airforce also paid its respects to the Navy with formation flyovers on Saturday and Navy helicopter teams took to the skies to display their skills.

On Sunday morning a memorial service was held for HMAS Sydney I at Bradleys Head.

The public had a chance to explore warships at Fleet Base East, Garden Island and Barangaroo, while tall ships were open to visitors at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

More events were held during the week before the warships departed on October 11 for an international training exercise.

[read more online]

## Recipe: BABI KETJAP

1 med onion (cut into chunks)  
1 lb pork (butt roast, remove fat, cut into cubes)  
3 cloves garlic  
1 slice ginger root (1/4 inch by 1 inch long)  
1 1/2 tbsp margarine or butter  
1/3 cup ABC Medium Sweet Soy Sauce  
1/6 cup soy superior sauce  
1/4 cup water  
*optional:* raw or slightly fried potato cubes; 2 small tomatoes cut into wedges; 2 green onions cut into small pieces

melt margarine or butter  
add onion, ginger, garlic (raw potato if desired)  
heat until browned stirring occasionally  
add pork

add both soy sauces, water, sugar (fried potato if desired)  
let simmer at med heat for approx. 3/4 hour; add tomato wedges and green onions 5 minutes before serving  
For slow cooker add all ingredients minus the water and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours, until pork is tender. I normally add the raw potato.

- Wayne Dietrich's recipe. More on the online version of The Southern Yarn.



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The Norwegians hope to break the non-stop knitting record of 4 hours 50 minutes, held by Australia. [pic in Dropbox]

### **Close-knit challenge**

STAVANGER, Norway – In its latest experiment with live coverage of mundane events, Norway’s public broadcasting network plans to dedicate five hours of air-time to an attempt to break the knitting world record.

The NRK network says the Nov. 1 broadcast will be preceded by a four-hour documentary on how the wool off a sheep’s back turns into a sweater.

NRK producer Rune Moeklebust said Friday that “it’s kind of ordinary TV but very slow, although they’ll be knitting as fast as they can.”

The Norwegians hope to break the current non-stop knitting record of 4 hours 50 minutes, held by Australia.

Television in Norway has already enticed viewers with minute-by-minute salmon fishing, a five-day broadcast from a ship, and several hours of watching a fire burn itself out.

— The Associated Press. *Republished from the Winnipeg Free Press print edition October 5, 2013 G12* (Well, even if they do, our ‘Yarn is better than theirs! — Ed.)

### **Soldier portraits leave historians perplexed**

A to identify soldiers pictured in old photographic plates found in a Wellington studio has unearthed a new mystery.

Historians are perplexed by two images of young women dressed in uniform found among 100-year-old portraits of WW1 soldiers.

Te Papa History Curator Michael Fitzgerald is convinced that the subjects of the two photographs are women.

“Once you look at the hair, the faces, the body shape, the stance.... there’s no way they’re guys,” he said.

One woman, who appears to be in her mid-20s, has donned uniform of a Regimental Sergeant Major of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade.

“She’s drawn the line at wearing ,” Mr Fitzgerald said of the photo, which is inscribed with the word “Johnson”.

The other photo is even more mysterious and only has the name O’Brien etched into the negative.

“Is she some sort of theatrical person, is she having a joke with her boyfriend? What’s going on,” asks Mr Fitzgerald.

The photographs were among 3000 glass plate negatives found in a cupboard at a Wellington studio.

The search for information about the identities of the 170 Kiwi soldiers in the pictures has so far resulted in more than half being recognised

But historians remain hopeful that someone will recognise the women.

Advertisement

“They’re not just dead people on a wall. They’re people who led real lives and in some places really complex lives,” said Mr Fitzgerald.

**Do you know who the women are? Email**

### **# 5 in the list of 10 most alien and weird places on Earth: Rotorua, New Zealand [pic in Dropbox]**

Rotorua is a city on the southern shores of the lake of the same name, in the Bay of Plenty region of the North Island of New Zealand. Rotorua city is renowned for its unique “rotten eggs” aroma, which is caused by the activity releasing sulphur compounds into the atmosphere. Geothermal activity is at the heart of much of Rotorua’s tourist appeal. Geysers and bubbling mud-pools, hot thermal springs and the Buried Village (Te Wairoa) – are within easy reach of the city. This thermal activity owes itself to the Rotorua caldera on which the city lies. Waters of vivid colors, from yellow to orange to green which is partially possible to visit it.

### **New Qualification Supports Sustainable Systems of Food Production**

Many more Food Forests are likely to spring up around New Zealand as a new tertiary qualification shows how to produce food in ways which mimic forest eco-systems. Food Forests are a time honoured method of growing food in intentionally designed, highly productive, multi layered systems of mostly perennial plants.

People who enrol in the 60 credit course delivered through Food Forest New Zealand and Otago Polytechnic’s Centre for Sustainable Practice, will be guided through the process of designing and beginning to implement a food forest, at a scale and in a location of their choosing.

**Promising NZ oat project gets \$50,000 boost in quest for new industry**

A Venture Southland joint committee pumped in \$50,000 to a project that encourages the conversion of an oats protein into high value foods and potentially nutraceuticals (dietary supplements and food ingredients) and pharmaceuticals.

Steve Canny, Venture Southland enterprise and strategic projects group manager, said the enterprise could be worth \$500m to the region and had wider potential for the country. Progress so far had stirred national and international interest.

Venture was working with stakeholders to develop the value-added processing of oats as a new industry, he said.

Funds allocated are to be used to investigate the development of an agronomic – the science and technology of producing and using plants for food, fuel or fibre – model, investment profile and business case for the development of the oat production and value-added food processing industry.

“This type of value-added production only happens in a few areas of the world,” Canny said.

The project was targeted at land that was not suited to dairy production but which was ideal for oat growing and would help the diversification of the Southland economy and give additional resilience against fluctuating commodity prices, he said.

The project would complement the dairy industry and its effect on sheep and beef farming would be investigated, he said.

“It will use a quarter less land, capital and water than the dairy and will have one sixteenth less of a transport impact.”

Southland’s soils provided grain farmers with the opportunity to produce the highest grain yields in the country and match the world’s best production figures, Canny said.

Areas within central, northern and eastern Southland would be the base for the grain industry in the region. The project seeks improved returns to farmers working the heavier high-pugging soils.

Full cost for the project, including the appointment of a project co-ordinator, was expected to be \$350,000, plus stakeholder in-kind contributions.

Industry stakeholders had so far contributed \$80,000. The work is expected to be completed by the end of April next year.

**Commonwealth Briefs**

**Solomons, Kiribati get help cleaning up wartime explosives**

Disposal of explosive and weaponry remnants left over from the Second World War to be undertaken in the Solomon Islands and Kiribati. HMNZ Manawanui and HMNZS Wellington with NZ Defence Force staff aboard will conduct the operation.

**Taliban and Pakistan Argue Over Fate of Islamist Detainee**

Pakistan insists it freed Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a founder of the Taliban, last month, but the group says he remains in jail and wants him released.

**Extremist group said gaining foothold among Kenyans**

Disaffected and neglected Muslims in Kenya are finding sources of fund raising and recruits.

**Ninth Journalist killed this year in Pakistan**

Jan Khattak, of GEO TV Channel in the Takht Nusrati area, Karak district, was shot and killed by two assailants while walking to work. Motive for the killing was unclear. Khattak’s family members said they had no enmity with anyone.

**Worst cyclone in half-century blasts into SE India**

Cyclone Phailin, the strongest cyclone in decades swept into India from Bay of Bengal in October as authorities bused and trucked tens of thousands of villagers from their mud and thatch coastal homes to government shelters inland. A holiday celebration was cancelled and coastal Orissa and Andhra Pradesh states were stockpiled with emergency stores. Government effort kept deaths in the low hundreds whereas fatalities had often numbered hundreds of thousands. Forecasters said Cyclone Phailin covers nearly half the Bay of Bengal. The Indian Met Department said Phailin packed sustained winds of 210-220 kilometres per hour. The US Navy’s Typhoon Warning Center in Hawaii looked at sustained winds of 269 km/h. It was flirting with historic power, they said.

**SATAY**

- 1 tbs oil
  - 1 clove (crushed) garlic
  - 1 tbs lemon juice
  - 100 ml ABC Sweet Soy Sauce
  - 25 ml Soy Superior Dark Sauce
  - 1-2 lb beef, pork, boneless chicken (cut into cube or strips)
- combine all ingredients and marinate for 2- 4 hours (normally I marinate overnight and stir up the chicken a couple of times)
- place on bamboo skewers and barbecue on a med to low setting.

Wayne Dietrich’s recipe