

The Southern Yarn

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

April 2014



downundercalendar

APRIL

ANZAC Day

Saturday, April 26th, 6:00 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service, singing of our national anthems, and a delicious POTLUCK dinner. This is always a memorable event, so come and be a part of it and the fun to follow. And don't forget – the Bar will be open.

SUMMER

Pool Party

Stay tuned

ANYONE for CRICKET?

The club is exploring the interest in holding a social cricket game at Assiniboine Park this summer. It would be a limited over game with each batsman facing a minimum number of balls and the bowling to be shared evenly. In order to gauge the interest in this event, would anybody wanting to play, please email Peter Debenham at peter@mypd.ca. We will then advise the status of the event in the next newsletter.

RSVP

If you let us know you are coming, we can be ready for you! RSVP to 204-228-9959 or social@downunderclub.mb.ca.

Are your Membership dues paid for 2014?

Individual \$20 ... Couple/family \$30 ... Mail your cheques to the Club, pay at the next event, or online through the website. Any questions, contact Peter Debenham at peter@pdlactg.ca or 204-955-0393.

Advertise in *The Southern Yarn*. Contact Jenny (228-9959, info@downunderclub.mb.ca) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.



The website www.anzac.govt.nz has a great information on all things Anzac including many interesting online full panoramas like this one from the commemorative site above North Beach, Gallipoli with the islands of Imbros and Samothrace on the horizon. This site was created as a joint effort of the New Zealand and Australian governments in cooperation with the Turkish government.

Significance of Anzac Day

On 25 April 1915, eight months into the First World War, Allied soldiers landed on the shores of the Gallipoli peninsula. This was Turkish territory that formed part of Germany's ally, the Ottoman Empire. The troops were there as part of a plan to open the Dardanelles Strait to the Allied fleets, allowing them to threaten the Ottoman capital Constantinople (now Istanbul) and, it was hoped, force a Turkish surrender. The Allied forces encountered unexpectedly strong resistance from the Turks, and both sides suffered enormous loss of life.

The forces from New Zealand and Australia, fighting as part of the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps), played an important part in the Gallipoli campaign. At its beginning, people at home greeted with excitement the news that our soldiers were at last fully engaged in the war. New Zealand and Australian soldiers distinguished themselves with their courage and skill, establishing an enduring bond with one another.

The Gallipoli campaign was, however, a costly failure for the Allies, who after nine months abandoned it and evacuated their surviving troops. Many taking part had been killed; the communities they came from had counted the cost in the lengthy casualty lists that appeared in their newspapers. And the

sacrifice seemed to have been in vain, for the under-resourced and poorly-conducted campaign did not have any significant influence on the outcome of the war.

Although Anzac Day, the anniversary of the first day of conflict, does not mark a military triumph, it does remind us of a very important episode in our history. Great suffering was caused to a small country by the loss of so many of its young men. But the Gallipoli campaign showcased attitudes and attributes - bravery, tenacity, practicality, ingenuity, loyalty to King and comrades - that helped New Zealand and Australia define themselves as nations, even while fighting unquestioningly on the other side of the world in the name of the British Empire.

After Gallipoli, New Zealand and Australia had a greater confidence in their distinct identities, and a greater pride in the international contribution they could make. And the mutual respect earned during the fighting formed the basis of the close ties between Australia and New Zealand that continue today.

Find out more on these sites:

NZHistory.net.nz: Anzac Day feature
Includes history of Anzac Day taken from The Oxford Companion to NZ Military History.
<http://www.anzac.govt.nz/significance>

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



For The Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.
They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.
But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;
As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) [link]

See you at the SCC on the 26th..

It's hard to remember the last winter we had that hung on for as long as the one we are still dealing with. The street we live on has a depression right on front of our house, and in the Spring it collects a major lake of water from both directions. The cure is to dig through the snowbank, find the curbside drain opening, and open it up. Sometimes, but rarely, it will start draining without encouragement from my ice cutting tools. But our street has only been plowed (ploughed?) to within 2 feet of the curb, so when I was contemplating this exercise 2 weeks ago, I knew it would be more difficult than usual, even allowing for the 4 foot high snow/ice

president's ramblings

Peter Munn

windrows. And that was before the fairly clean street was cleared by a front end loader 10 days ago, for no useful reason, and the operator dumped 3 yards of hard, frozen, compacted ice right on top of the area over top of the curbside drain. Even though the forecast called for a Colorado low and more snow, I started digging away at the monster ice-pile today, as the warmer weather meant the water was beginning to flow into Lake Clonard. I would prefer to say that I had immediate success, but I didn't, there is now a major opening on the side of the ice piles, but still no sign of the drain opening. Tomorrow, Gumboots.

Peter

50yearsago

history from downunder

Monday, April 13, 1964 : A New Zealand shearer sets a new record for sheep-shearing.

New Zealand, like Australia, is known for having a higher population of sheep than people. Sheep were first introduced to the country by Reverend Samuel Marsden of the Anglican Church Missionary Society, when he arrived at Rangihoua at Oihi Bay in December 1814. By 1868, New Zealand had developed its own breed of sheep, the Corriedale.

Prior to the establishment of the World Sheep Shearing Records Committee in 1982, the world shearing record belonged to New Zealand shearer Colin Bosher. Bosher, of Awakino, Taranaki, sheared a record of 565 sheep in one day on 13 April 1964.

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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience



A QUEENSLAND man has reacted to a deadly snake bite in the most Australian way – by grabbing a cold beer from the fridge.

Rod Sommerville, 54, thought he was going to “cark it” last month when he was nipped on the finger by an eastern brown snake while moving pot plants around his backyard.

The Yepoon man smacked the backyard dweller on the head with a shovel and called for an ambulance.

Then he grabbed a XXXX Gold from the fridge and sat down, because “if you panic, you make it worse”, the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin reports.

The newspaper reported that Mr Somerville did not wake his teenage son, who was snoozing on the couch, because he didn’t want to a cause a scene.

“I said to myself, if I’m going to cark it I’m going to have a beer,” he told the newspaper. So I got a Goldie out of the fridge and drank that.”

He was whisked to hospital for treatment but his ordeal spiralled further when he suffered an allergic reaction to the antivenom.

“The reaction nearly killed me as well, so it was a double whammy,” he said. [Link]

Rare and exotic vegetables gaining popularity in Australia

Australian Food News, March 19, 2014, Sophie Langley. Consumers are increasingly turning to obscure Australian-grown vegetables in an effort to satiate exotic dining desires, according to new market research from body AusVeg. Australians are increasingly craving vegetable ingredients that were “not in the mainstream”.

“This demand could evoke a ‘hipster revolution’ for emerging and underground veg-

etable varieties,” said Felicity Powell, AusVeg spokesperson.

“Gay Choy, Taro and Winter Melon are among the lesser-known vegetable varieties of Australian-grown produce,” Ms Powell said. “They’re pretty underground, you’ve probably never heard of them, but if you want to spice up the kitchen or add a flavour of the exotic, these are right up your alley,” she said. [link].



Fly numbers in outback Queensland worst in decades

Bush flies are breeding in massive numbers in outback Queensland, but the drought has meant dung beetles are not as active.

The flies are breeding up in big numbers after some relief rain in some parts of the inland and some residents and outside workers have taken to wearing fly veils for some respite. But it is also the widespread and prolonged drought that is being partly blamed for the fly problem.

Traffic controller Mark King 10 hours a day controlling traffic on the Landsborough Highway near Winton, north-west of Longreach. “When you open your water bottle up, there are that many flies, they just swarm straight in to the top,” he said.

“I’ve been drinking through the fly veil to try and stop them because I am sick of swallowing flies.”

He is just one outside worker coping with a big increase in bush fly numbers.

“The flies are atrocious this year - everyone is talking about them. They have never seen so many flies in their lives, and they don’t know when it is going to let-up either.” [link].



Rugby sevens: NZ Defence wins

The New Zealand sevens side put up a steel curtain at Westpac Stadium this weekend and in five of their six games nobody could breach it.

Sir Gordon Tietjens’ side were immense on defence as they won the Wellington leg of the world series for the first time since 2012.

After they dropped their first pool match 12-7 to Fiji on Friday, New Zealand went five straight games without conceding a point in a superhuman defensive effort that was capped off with a 21-0 win over South Africa in the final last night. Tietjens has coached the national side since 1994 and he struggled to recall a more dominant tackling display under his watch. [link]



NZ unprepared for rising sea

New Zealand is unprepared for sea level rises of half a metre by the end of the century that could turn 1-in-100 year flooding events into annual occurrences, a recent blockbuster report on climate change has revealed.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s much-anticipated climate update found that New Zealand had a significant “adaptation deficit” in the face of human-influenced global warming. [link]

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Jennifer Cobb

It's always interesting to learn how – and why – new members get in touch with the DUCW. Jennifer fits that mould perfectly.

She was born in Regina, SK, and went to school there until 10 years of age. Her father, a chartered accountant, worked for Beaver Lumber and was transferred to Winnipeg. Jennifer continued her education at Dakota Collegiate to Grade XII and earned an Arts Degree in History at U of M. She then went on to Acadia University at Wolfville, NS, and completed a pre-Masters course in Special Education for students with those needs.

Returning to Winnipeg, she worked in that area of teaching at the Winnipeg School Division for 10 years. She then taught nursery and lower grade kids before going back to teaching four year olds, which she is still doing.

Four years ago, Jennifer was on a teacher exchange in Adelaide, Australia, for one year. Her daughter Danna accompanied her. They had a great time visiting Glenelg Beach and the wineries of Barossa Valley. She has kept in contact with other exchange teachers, one of whom put Jennifer in touch with her sister in Oz, who mentioned there was a club for

Danna and Jennifer Cobb have both backpacked through Europe.



expat Aussies and Kiwis in Winnipeg.

Jennifer found us on the internet and has attended our ANZAC Day services the past two years, both times bringing an exchange teacher with her. She plans on being at our next event as well.

In her earlier years, Jennifer backpacked through Europe, like many from down under. She has a cousin in New Zealand and would like to go there for a visit. Jennifer is into yoga, movies and books.

Danna was born in Winnipeg, has a BA from U of M, and expects to graduate this fall with a Masters' degree in Archival Studies. She has also backpacked through Europe!

Great to have Jennifer as a member of the DUCW, and we look forward to seeing her again at our ANZAC Day service.

Gordon Keatch

10 Aussie inventions:

Check out these ingenious inventions we can attribute to the clever minds of Australians:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Black box flight recorder | 9. Winged keel | 17. Frazier deep-focus lens |
| 2. Spray-on skin | 10. Permaculture | 18. Triton Workcentre |
| 3. Electronic pacemaker | 11. Wif-Fi technology | 19. Racecam |
| 4. Google Maps | 12. Ultrasound scanner | 20. tank-bred tuna system |
| 5. Medical application of penicillin | 13. Plastic spectacle lenses | |
| 6. Polymer bank notes | 14. Inflatable escape slide and raft | Read all about them in the Australian Geographic online. [link] . |
| 7. Bionic ear | 15. Permanent crease clothing | |
| 8. Electric drill | 16. Cancer vaccines | |

Easter Eggs - The Kiwi Way!

CLICK HERE TO CHECK 'EM OUT



Kiwi food club discount

Jim Fisher of Kiwi Corner Dairy writes: "I got your details from the communities page on the NZ Edge website. I operate a business in New Zealand - Kiwi Corner Dairy is an online store that ships NZ foods to Kiwi expats and friends worldwide. If you feel it may be of interest to your Kiwi contacts I have set up a discount of 20% off all products." At checkout, simply enter the coupon code NZ EDGE. [\[link\]](#)

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Young Royals on a three-week walkabout Down Under

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge William and Kate and baby Prince George are headed out on a three week junket down under this month, nine days of it in New Zealand (four days in the South Island and four in the North) and the balance of the trip in Oz.

NZ PM John Key said the trip would afford a "pretty good geographic spread", meaning Kiwis would have a good chance to see the royal family.

"The Duke and Duchess will be based at Government House in Wellington and mostly make day trips to different parts of the country, then return to be with Prince George in the evening."

The visit starts in NZ on April 7 and ends in Australia on Anzac Day.

While 8-month old George is not expected to accompany the Duke and Duchess on most public outings, aides expect he will make an appearance before the cameras at "one or two" events over the course of the three week tour.

The trip's highlights include the royal couple racing each other in competing America's Cup yachts on the Auckland Harbour and a ride on Queenstown's famous Shotover jet.

The Duchess of Cambridge has not been to the antipodes before. Prince William was last in NZ and Oz in 2011, shortly after the Christchurch earthquakes and natural disasters in Queensland and Victoria.

On April 13, the couple will travel to Dunedin, Queenstown and Christchurch where they will visit the central business district and stop to remember those who were killed during 2010.

In Dunedin they will be met by Ngai Tahu before attending a Palm Sunday service, followed by a "Rippa Rugby" game. On their final morning before they fly out to Australia

the Royal couple will visit the police college outside Wellington which was opened by William's father, the Prince of Wales 30 years ago.

China's leader accepts Key's invitation to visit NZ near year's end

Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to visit New Zealand later this year. Word of his travel plans emerged during a meeting last month with Prime Minister John Key.

The PM, and a small Kiwi delegation, met Xi at the Great Hall of the People, before being hosted for a small formal dinner. At this gathering the president confirmed his acceptance of Key's invitation, to occur shortly before or after the G20 in Brisbane in November.

The meeting also saw the formal approval of a new target to raise two-way trade between NZ and China to \$30-billion by 2020. The scale of the two countries – China's population is several hundred times larger than New Zealand's – means that trade growth was likely to consist mainly of growing Kiwi exports to China.

While New Zealand has historically run a trade deficit with China last year it sold close to \$2- billion more to China than it imported, a gap which is expected to grow.

Forgotten Second World War mines in NZ to be neutralized

One Second World War mine has been made safe off the Whangaparaoa Peninsula in the Hauraki Gulf north of Auckland, and the Royal New Zealand Navy will be checking three more in coming weeks.

Practice scenarios became a little more real during the multi-national mine counter measures exercise held off the peninsula when US, Australian and Japanese dive teams stumbled over the explosive relics.

The L Mark 1 controlled buoyant mines were laid in the Whangaparaoa Passage between the peninsula and Tiri Tiri Matangi Island in September 1942. Seven loops of 16 mines and two guard loops were laid over a fortnight at the start of a defensive mine laying operation which saw 1,391 friendly mines laid in 10 harbours across the country. The controlled mines would have been exploded from navy bunkers at the end of the peninsula if enemy ships were spotted in the Whangaparaoa Channel, Lieutenant Commander Trevor Leslie says.

"At the moment we have dealt with one of them, which has been made safe....We are going to be diving on the other three in the next few weeks to check their state because

we haven't actually done detailed analysis dives on those yet," he says.

The navy says that because of their age and condition any remaining World War II mines are unlikely to be dangerous. As a result they will be left where they are on the seabed.

Economics drives out auto-building industry from Oz scene

They blame high costs, low subsidies and small market size for the slow death of the automobile manufacturing industry in Australia. With car-making doomed by 2017, grim disappointment aside, there's a certain nostalgia about the nation's auto history going down.

Anecdotally, the modern Oz auto era started in most memories with the Sandman by Holden. On the road in the 1970s, it was the so-called "panel van," to which so many under-fifties Australians are supposed to attribute their conceptions. True or not it's an Oz story with a romance of its own.

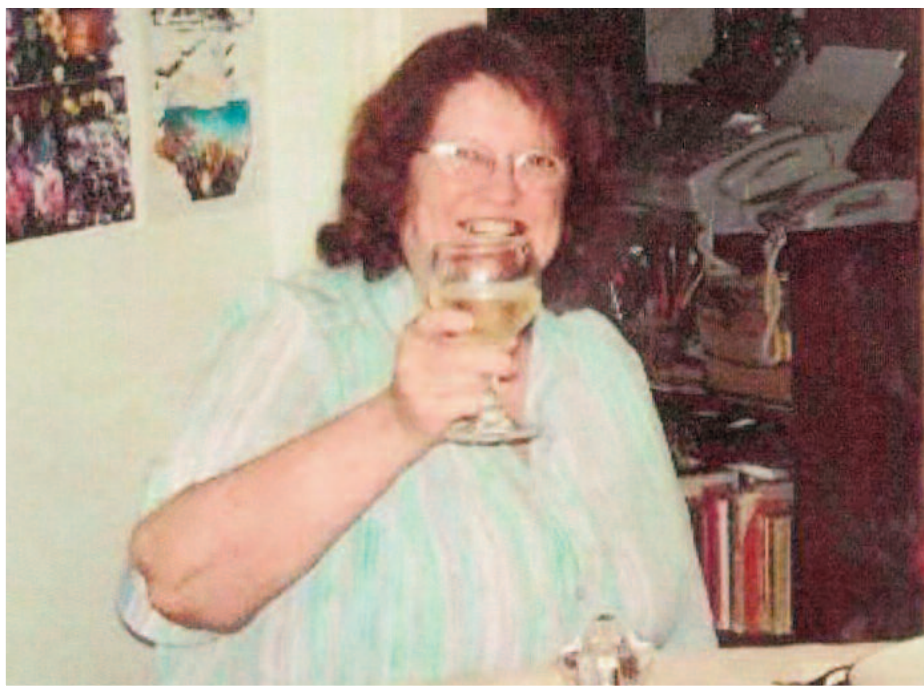
As Ian Marlow, The Globe's Asia Pacific correspondent, described it, this was in its day "a sleek wagon with no windows at the back –painted bright orange and featuring a testosterone-drenched images from the country's outback, complete with a koala, a kangaroo, a frill-necked lizard and a naked woman..." So much for romance.

When the era of protecting jobs became the mantra, a fabric of subsidy, wage contests, quotas and import taxes evolved. Tariffs were 57.5% in the late 1970s.

The something that had to be done was called the Button Plan, named for the Industry Minister John Button of the day who implemented "the remedies." But even with subsidies it wasn't enough. Oz cars cost about \$2,000 more to make than the equivalent imports. The industry couldn't compete. The American and Asian brands gradually closed their factories and have faded back home leaving many of the estimated 50,000 jobs in jeopardy.

New Prime Minister Tony Abbott is taking some heat from organized labor.

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; a member of the Advisory Board of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism. Murray Burt writes this Commonwealth column to raise sensitivities to its value and lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world. Enjoy.



remember

DUCW club members

Farewell, dear friend

Monica Black, our dear friend, long-time DUCW member, and staunch supporter of all things down under, passed away on Tuesday March 25. Monica lost her courageous battle against cancer after a long and difficult fight. Monica wore many hats, was deeply committed to her community in and around her home in Bowsman, MB, and was a founding member of the Swan River Folk Fest that recognizes all ethnic groups surrounding the Swan River Valley.

Monica was a big supporter of the DUCW and our activities, and through the Folkfest, she celebrated our countries and our ties to home. Despite her illness, Monica recently donated to the Club items she had collected and treasured over the years. Some of those items have already been used as gifts and prizes to our members, and will do so for many years to come.

Peter Munn and Jenny Gates went up to Bowsman on Saturday April 5 for the celebration of Monica's life. The service featured tributes from her family in Australia, as well as many groups and organisations with which Monica was involved – Ducks Unlimited, Swan Valley Health Facilities, Swan Valley School Division (SVSD), and students from SVSD bus route 23 for whom both Monica and Matt were drivers. A table was laid out with many examples of Monica's handiwork and treasures – knitting, crafts, Australian souvenirs – and Jenny played and sang a selection of Aussie songs to share Monica's deep love for Australia. The service concluded with a very moving tribute from the Legion, and was followed by a wonderful lunch made by friends, family and colleagues.

Our sincere condolences to her husband Matt, and family and friends around the world.

Jenny Gates

Bingo Bowling

We had 42 people roll up to the Windsor Park Lanes on 14th March to enjoy some 5 pin glow bowling action. Incredible prizes were shared out among the winners of each of the 4 games bowled thanks to generous donated prizes from Monica Black.

Everyone had an enjoyable time bowling and mingling with other members and non-members who joined us. Some members got in some extra practice after the main event as the lanes allowed anyone to continue bowling who would like, at no charge!

Hopefully you will put the bingo bowling on your agenda for next year when there might be a little something special happen....

Terry



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Fiji dictator sheds uniform, dons suit for a run at Prime Ministership

Fiji is gearing up for a return to the Commonwealth with its expectation that its long suspension from Commonwealth membership will be lifted after the forthcoming election in September.

There are several obvious signs.

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) the body with the power of censure and suspension at its meeting in London last month welcomed the “significant progress made in Fiji towards holding national elections by September 2014. ”

Also last month, Fiji’s military dictator, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, was farewelled at a lavish dine-out in his honor. Here the PM, who also now holds the rank of Rear Admiral (ret), swapped his uniform for a suit, to signify he has stepped down from the forces to prepare for his parliamentary campaign, which is expected to raise him to a civilian prime ministerial office.

The promising signs CMAG also noted included the promulgation of a new constitution; the enrolment of more than 540,000 voters; the establishment of an independent Electoral Commission; and the commencement of a dialogue between the Commission and political stakeholders. CMAG also welcomed the decision by the Fiji Elections Office to open voter registration offices around the country to ensure more voters will register in anticipation of the planned elections.

The Pacific nation's gradual and belated shift back to democracy has been welcomed by Britain, Australia and New Zealand and is likely to lead to its suspension from the Commonwealth being lifted.

Bainimarama, 59, seized power in a bloodless coup in 2006 – the fourth military coup since 1987. However, he has repeatedly delayed moves to hold an election that he is widely expected to win. He was forced to leave the military because a new constitution – drawn up by the military regime – does not allow members of the armed forces to run for political office.