

The Southern Yarn

December 2014

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.



downundercalendar

DECEMBER

Christmas Bingo Bowl Social

Saturday December 6th, 2014, 5 – 8pm

Windsor Bowling Lanes

Pizza will be provided by the Club. Santa is expected, so contact Margaret Munn by November 30th with childrens' names (12yrs and under). Note: **SATURDAY**, not Sunday.

JANUARY

Australia/ Waitangi Day Annual bake-off

Saturday January 31st, 2015

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

This is a fun social event where we celebrate our roots and enjoy great food prepared by some of the finest chefs in Winnipeg – YOU! So accept the challenge: Bake up your best Meat Pie and compete for 1st Prize, Grand Champion, Best in Show and/or bring a salad, veggie dish or dessert. There might also be a fun trivia quiz on Australia and New Zealand knowledge – and more prizes! And don't forget – the Bar will be open.

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.

NOW IS THE TIME to renew for 2015

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 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.



Chicago Road Trip and the All Blacks



When Les discovered that the All Blacks were playing the American Eagles at Soldier Field on November 1st, 2014 a family road trip to Chicago was planned. Chicago was impressive! There were dizzying views from Willis Tower, gale force winds at the Navy Pier, endless museums (including The Field Museum which exhibits one of only three original Marae* found outside of New Zealand) and, of course, deep dish pizza! However, the All Blacks were well and truly the highlight of the trip!

It was a cold and windy 6 degrees, but dressed for the weather we were pleased the sun came out and the forecast rain stayed away. Chicago was filled with Kiwis who had traveled from all over to watch the game. The All Blacks put on a fantastic show for their fans in the sold out crowd of 64,000 people. The atmosphere was amazing and watching the Haka was a moment to never forget! We

cheered hard watching the All Blacks outscore the Eagles with a score of 74-6. We stayed until the very end while the All Blacks walked around the stadium to give applause to their fans. Best of all was 6 year old Aidan, (who is not a sports fan) telling us that his favorite part of the day was "watching the All Blacks win"! I think for Les and I it was, quite probably, our "favorite" thing of the year!

Katrina

*The marae (meeting grounds) is the focal point of Maori communities throughout New Zealand. [Read more online].



online



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

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day –

So the snow has come and will likely stay until spring. I try not to get negative about the weather, because, for one thing what can you do about it anyway? And for another, every season has something going for it. One of those for winter is the appearance of animal tracks in the snow and figuring out what they belong to. In our area, the deer and squirrels are fairly obvious, but others show up that are still so far a mystery. A treat a couple of winters back was coming across the impression in fresh fallen snow of an owl's wing prints – no doubt a silent surprise for a small rodent! Sparrows and Chickadees can tough it out, so can we. The monthly DUCW events will help – come and enjoy the fun, food and mateship that are sure to warm you up.

Thank you to our contributors this month: Katrina, Les and Aidan, Murray, Ed, Judy, Chris and the Province of Manitoba. This month we get to know about some New Zealand gold rush history.

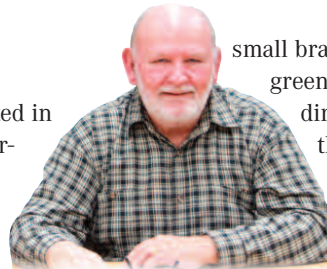
Enjoy!

AGM results

Sufficient members for a quorum braved the snowy conditions to come out and attend to Club business at the Annual General Meeting on 28th November. With Gordon Keatch presiding, the current Board (see listing on back page) was re-elected with the welcome addition of Elizabeth Hydesmith, who stepped up to fill the long-vacant Social Convenor position. The social time that followed saw several new ideas tossed about, so be prepared to enjoy a variety of fun events in the near future.

Hi there,
It's time for Christmas.

Christmas is celebrated in Canada a little differently than it is celebrated Down Under. Here, the Christmas cards we receive have snowy images that we can relate to. Growing up in Melbourne, I never saw snow until my family went into the hills well north of Melbourne on the one day in the year that snow stayed for more than a day. Yet most Christmas cards we received there had images of a White Christmas. One more hold-on from our English past. Here we have elaborate Christmas trees, often gathered ourselves after a trip to a tree farm. In Melbourne, I recall walking along Nicholson St., and paying for a



president's ramblings

Peter Munn

small branch of some nondescript evergreen tree, sticking it in a bucket of dirt, and adding tinsel. Not quite the same as a Colorado spruce.

But wherever you are, it is a magical time to be a child, the excitement, the presents, the family gatherings. And a great time for adults to enjoy the company of friends. For our family, we have the added excitement of a wedding, as our elder daughter Kimberly is marrying Richard Rice on Boxing Day, in our home. We are all looking forward to this happy event.

In closing, from Margaret and I, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

Peter



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winter vacation today!**

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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience



Rare platypus footage

Tasmanian filmmaker Max Moller was rewarded recently with an extraordinary close encounter the notoriously shy platypus.

He had been trying for seven years but had little usable footage to show for his effort.

But last month, while shooting with his assistant in bushland just outside Hobart, a Platypus made it really easy for them. [Watch their video online.]



Virtual dives – Aust Geo beneath the waves in Sydney with Google Maps

The Australian Geographic reports that Seascapes in 27 new locations around Australia have been made available to virtually dive through on Google Maps street view as part of the IUCN World Parks Congress (maps.google.com/ocean). The virtual panoramas were collected by the Catlin Seaview Survey, which is documenting reefs around the world to monitor their health over time. These images are from a series of dives in Sydney Harbour and surrounding beaches – 100,000 images from 32 locations along the Great Barrier Reef have also been released. [More online.]

Victorian cloud formation

A fallstreak hole, also known as a hole punch cloud, punch hole cloud, skypunch, canal cloud or cloud hole, was witnessed over the Wonthaggi, in the Gippsland area of Victoria



on 3rd Nov, flecked with colour and looking like a hole in the sky.

There was one over Omarama, New Zealand in May 2006, Oklahoma City in January 2010 and Moscow Russia, September 05,2012. [More photos online here.and here.]



Woman swallowed by sinkhole while hanging out washing

A woman in Australia was swallowed by a watery sinkhole that opened up beneath her feet - as she was hanging out her washing.

The 45-year-old was in her garden in Melbourne when the 9ft deep, 2ft wide chasm opened up, according to news.com.au.

She had to swim and float in the deep water as she shouted for help for half an hour. One paramedic said that at one point during her ordeal the woman's head was submerged. [Read more online.]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Cross-species Dolphin Adoption

A bottlenose dolphin that lost its own calf five years ago has adopted a baby of another species.

The inter-species adoption, which is "extremely rare" among dolphins, was confirmed when Lawrence Hamilton, a sightseeing boat crew member from the Fullers GreatSights Bay photographed the calf swimming upside-down and suckling from its adopted mom in New Zealand.

(READ the story, with more photos at the New Zealand Herald)

Photo by Lawrence Hamilton- Story tip from Julia Frerichs, LMT

Slow Down and Save the Whales

After a six-year campaign led by Dr Rochelle Constantine, of the University of Auckland's school of biological sciences, the shipping industry this week agreed to reduce speeds and take other measures to improve the chances of vulnerable marine mammals surviving ship strikes, especially the resident population of Bryde's whales. Photo credit: Cascadia Research



Kiwi traverses US in record time

A 60-year-old New Zealand man has finished the run of his life, crossing America in 51 days and securing a world masters record for his age group.

After leaving the steps of New York City Hall on September 1, Perry Newburn ran 3106 miles (5000 km) to Los Angeles and finished in 51 days, 16 hours and 40 minutes.

With his epic run the Feilding man wanted to inspire older athletes and raise money for charity. He collected around \$8,000 for two children's charities, for which he is still accepting donations. Photo: telmo32.

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NZ Gold Rush

New Zealand's first two hard-rock gold mines are visible in this 1860s view of Driving Creek, Coromandel Peninsula. The Kapanga mine, in the foreground on the left, produced some 71,454 ounces of bullion (gold and silver) over the next 50 years. Nearby Scotty's mine, on the ridge at upper left, was a financial failure. (Carl Walrond. 'Gold and gold mining - As good as gold', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 14-Nov-12. [More online.]

The first recorded discovery of gold in New Zealand was by Charles Ring, a Tasmanian who found a small amount at Driving Creek near the town of Coromandel in 1852. Some years later there were more discoveries around Golden Bay and Marlborough, Otago and on the West Coast. Some finds amounted to nothing, but others led to huge gold rushes.

Otago

Otago's first gold rush was in 1861, after Gabriel Read found gold in what would be called Gabriels Gully. Thousands of diggers, later including men from China, went there to make their fortune.

West Coast

There were gold rushes on the West Coast from 1865. Miners had to cut their way through bush to reach the goldfields, and as in other places in New Zealand, the work was tough and a miner's life was hard. There were almost no women. Towns with names such as Quartzopolis, Goldsborough and Crushingtown were quickly built to house the miners and disappeared when they moved on.

Coromandel Peninsula

The first big find was near Thames in 1867. The gold was in hard rocks and expensive to mine, so companies rather than individuals took over. There were several very rich mines in this area, especially the Martha mine at Waihi.

Mining today

Gold helped make New Zealand's economy successful because it attracted people, investments and shipping. Because the price of gold was fixed, gold mining declined in the mid-20th century, but revived in the



1980s when the price was allowed to float. Today, gold still earns the country millions of dollars each year. Modern machinery makes it possible to dig in places that were once impossible to mine. There are large mines in operation at Waihi on the Coromandel

Peninsula and Macraes Flat in Otago.

You've read the short story, now read the full story [online].

Carl Walrond. 'Gold and gold mining', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 9-Nov-12 . [online.]

Tragic improbability

The ball which killed Australian cricketer **Phillip Hughes** struck the neck. The chance for the vertebral artery to be 'available' with the exact degree of neck rotation required at the exact point in time the ball hit the neck would be one in several billion. Factor in the number of short-pitched balls which have missed batsmen since the game began and then multiply by the chance of the artery (not a big artery by any means and protected by bone and muscle) not only splitting but then for the split to advance further up and then to rupture inside the skull (most split arteries don't lead to immediate rupture out of the confines of the artery) and we are bordering on future impossibility.

- Thoughts of a vascular surgeon

photo: ABC
Australia



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Australia-China deals during FTA session great progress in Pacific

Australia fared well in its dealings with China in last month's at the APEC summit.

Peter Drysdale, editor of the East Asia Forum, describes it as involving big breakthroughs in Asia-Pacific economic diplomacy.

He said the conclusion of the Australia-China free trade agreement during President Xi Jinping's state visit represents a major step forward in the bilateral relationship.

"The agreement will serve to deepen integration between the two economies, with substantial efficiency-enhancing liberalization of trade, services and investment flows.

"It could also provide a pillar on which to anchor a much broader economic and political relationship that recognizes the countries' common interests in regional and global affairs."

Drysdale wrote that Australia's Trade Minister Andrew Robb had put a priority on wrapping up the free trade agreement with China for a number of reasons. It was the last of the three big deals outstanding when the coalition government came to office – settling with China after doing deals with South Korea and Japan delivered the trifecta.

"It sorted out anomalies in our huge trade relationship with China that were a hang-over from China's deals with ASEAN, New Zealand and Chile, Australia's competitors in important Chinese agricultural commodity markets." Sources: ABC, East Asia Forum

Botswana LGBTs recognized

Botswana has gulped and formally recognized lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights among its citizenry. The High Court's ground-breaking decision last month means that they could formally register their organizations, a situation that is not usual in 38 African societies which outlaw same sex relationships.

HRW regards such bans as a violation of people's rights to freedom of association, assembly, and expression. It said the Botswana decision was a response to a petition filed by Lesbian, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LEGABIBO) to register under the Botswana Societies Act, a request that had been roundly rejected in the past.

The Botswana registrar of societies had rejected the group's request to register in March 2012. Such a formality is required to carry out the group's basic organizational functions and for equal participation in the development of national programs.

NZ voters want same regionally

It looks as though New Zealand's role in regional affairs will remain intact with the incumbent Conservatives unshaken and secure after the electorate had passed judgment.

Voters indeed provided a clear message on who should talk for the Kiwis on foreign policy at the end-of-year meetings of APEC, the East Asia Summit, and the G20 in Brisbane.

The re-election of Prime Minister John Key was a huge disappointment for Opposition parties, foundering in the wake of another Tory win. The New Zealand First party, which is little more than a facilitator for the populist career of Winston Peters, missed out on filling a kingmaker's role and as the feisty Peters ages, the party's future is uncertain.

The Greens wound up with a stand-still result. They got about the same fraction of the vote as in 2011, well short of its aspirations, certainly very much short of what was needed to serve as a significant coalition partner. Ahead for it is another three years in opposition.

As scholar Gary Hawke, a member of the Academic Advisory Council of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN, wrote in his thorough review, the big loser was Labour Party whose share of the vote was a pitiful 25% against National's 48%. The Labour Party had hoped that new leader David Cunliffe would attract more support than his predecessor, David Shearer. This was clearly a miscalculation. Indeed Labour suffered its worst result since 1922 and is sitting with a bitter leadership battle on its plate.

For the foreseeable future, New Zealand's participation in regional affairs will be characterized by continuity. In the longer term, it depends on resolution – or at least evolution – of domestic debates about fundamental economic strategy.

Sources: Hawke and wire service

Solomons PM loses seat

The Solomon Islands prime minister, Gordon Darcy Lilo failed to retain his seat in what was regarded as a major election upset last month. He lost to newcomer Jimson Tana, a secondary school teacher who ran a strong campaign for change.

The result was announced by the returning officer Patrick Toirana after a marathon ballot count. However he did not release the actual vote margin but the Solomon Star reported Tana drew about 2,000 votes, 200 more than the prime minister. Lilo was running for a fourth term in parliament. He first won the seat in 2001. He became prime minister in 2011 after defeating Danny Philip.

He had been a permanent secretary for the finance and environment ministries before entering politics.

Earlier police said a ballot box had been stolen by election official as a boat was being loaded to go to a central counting station. The incident occurred near Auki, in the eastern part of the island of Malaita.

Police said they gave chase and the official dropped the box, before fleeing into the jungle. They are also exploring a suspicion that the theft was done at the request, of a candidate and police are investigating that. They are also probing the stoning of a candidate by a rival's supporters.

A member of the Australian observers group, Queensland MP Bert Van Manen, told Radio Australia the counting process went smoothly in the capital, Honiara.

The election is seen as a test of the country's stability after the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) spent 10 years and \$2.6 billion restoring law, addressing corruption and bringing order following ethnic violence.

Sources – ABC News, The Solomon Star

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. There has been much significant Commonwealth news in the past month — Nigeria, South Africa, India, Pakistan — but how often did the media identify them as Commonwealth? Sad shortcoming. Enjoy.

Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; secretary of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada advisory board; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; a senator of the 166th Battery RCA (Kenora) and a director of The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



Premier Greg Selinger cordially invites you
and your family to the annual
**Legislative Building
Open House**

**Saturday, December 6, 2014
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Join Members of the Legislative Assembly
in a celebration of Manitoba's festive traditions.
★ Please bring a non-perishable food item or
an unwrapped toy for the Christmas Cheer Board.



All the best for the holi-
day season from your
new DUCW Board.

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Al-Qaeda recruits on Somali streets

Al-Shabaab in Kenya tests, then kills 28 non-Muslims in bus

Terrorist al-Shabaab fighters attacked a bus carrying 60 passengers headed for Nairobi last month and killed 28 non-Muslims in Northern Kenya.

About 100 gunmen are believed to have crossed the border from Somalia. They took the bus off the road and separated the passengers by quizzing them on their knowledge of the Koran, shooting in the head those who were unable to prove they were practicing Muslims.

A statement on a website linked to the extremist organization said the attack was retaliation for security raids on mosques in the coastal city of Mombassa earlier this week.

Kenya's Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government claimed on their official account earlier today: "Attackers' camp has been destroyed by KDF using helicopters and jets, many killed, operations continue."

Among the dead were Kenyan public servants – including four police officers – who were bound for the capital for the Christmas holiday.

Mr Korir added that many details over the attack remain unclear, but the deaths underscore fears over the lack of security, especially in the remote parts of northern Kenya. Sources: Nairobi Independent; Reuter

He went

As he walked towards the heavens gates,
he stood there all alone

And turned his face back to the world,
and the country he had called home.

He saw the tear stained faces

That spanned Australia wide

For the little bloke from Macksville

Who tragically had died.

He spun to face Saint Peter,

with his cap and bat in hand he asked,

"Please don't let my friends and family suffer,

Just help them if you can."

Saint Peter embraced the saddened Man

and held him strong and true

"They'll never be alone my son,

they'll forever still have you.

Although you had to leave them

And that world you did depart,

A piece of you forever remains

in each of their sad hearts."

As Hughes had turned to enter heaven

through the stunning golden gate

A voice yelled from the shadows,

"Come over here now mate."

Bradman stood there grinning

with bat and ball in hand.

He put his arm around Phil's shoulder and said

"You're up to bat young man."