

The Southern Yarn

February 2013



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

MARCH

5-pin Bingo Bowling

Saturday March 7th, 7:00 pm

Windsor Park Lanes, 678 Elizabeth Rd

A great night out for bowlers and non-bowlers; we'll even take wicket keepers and fielders! Teams and individuals are welcome. Fast, fun and fabulous for all ages. Bowling will be \$15.00 for adults, kids under 10 free, and includes 4 games, snack foods and prizes. Contact Terry (204-663-6549) to reserve your spot.

APRIL

ANZAC Day

Saturday, April 27th, 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.



The Munn family managed to gather outdoors despite the wintry days around Australia Day.

Getting out for our national days

Celebrating our national holidays is an excellent time to get together to celebrate, share dinner and tuck into a big, tasty birthday cake.

The Munn family had no problem gathering outdoors in their snowy back yard donning Aussie clobber (above).

Australia Day and Waitangi Day celebrations continued, attracting members and some special guests out to our annual club gathering at the beginning of this month.

We had nine entries for the pasta sauce evaluation and birthday cake big enough to send extra pieces home. Our trivia and depth of antipodean knowledge was plumbed with a great quiz, with a variety of prizes.

We also had a special presentation from Gregory Bryan whose book recounts his 450 km walk through the Australian outback, following the steps of writer Henry Lawson.

It was great to see some new folks alongside long-time members of the club.



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

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.



There were many new faces at this year's club gathering marking the 2013 Australia Day and Waitangi Day. Photos: Hydesmith.

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day, Well, I'm idle no more – back at the keyboard for another *Yarn*. Counting the one I did for Jenny back in July last year, this will be my 4th. I will be pleased to receive a bit of feedback. Perhaps we could introduce “Letters to the Editor” to the *Yarn*? (well, what do you know!? one just arrived... see page 4).

Of more concern, as I write, is the devastation for many folk in Australia – heat-waves, fires and now floods, again! We lived in Laidley, Qld, for 15 years until coming here in '91. We had up to a foot of water through our yard 2 or 3 times during that period (houses are up on stumps) – our neighbor would get a warning call from friends on a farm up the valley, and they in turn would alert us. We'd get busy and move toys, bikes, chickens, lawn mower, vehicle, etc.. It has now happened there twice in the last 2 years! This one is worse than in 2011 – with 28" falling at the head of the valley in 24 hrs there was little chance of avoiding the inevitable rush. Bundaberg is the worst hit with over 2000 homes going under – again much worse than 2011 – their bitter taste of what Winnipeg suffered in '50, before the “ditch”. We've got a foot of water in our yard here, now, too! Luckily it's in the form of snow.

Speaking of “Idle no more” (if you're not in Canada and haven't heard of it – Google), it got me thinking of the other situation downunder: Australia's and New Zealand's first peoples had similar experiences to Canada's. I don't intend to comment on the politics or motivations behind how it all went down, and continues to, but I was reminded of a book I read some years back about the early interactions in Australia – especially between the early explorers and the Aborigines, and in particular the sensible approach taken by Charles Sturt, p.6.

Gordon Keatch is back on deck with his “Getting to Know” member interviews: this month he gives us the fascinating story behind our multi-talented Greg Link. Also we're very fortunate to have the insights of Murray Burt in helping update us on Commonwealth news.

Thanks to this month's contributors, including Tim Sinclair-Smith who introduces us to Hudson.

Enjoy! Charlie

I hope everyone is enjoying this once in a lifetime weather (hopefully once is enough) anything below minus 25 is just plain cold.

I held back this president's message from our editor so I could tell you all about our trip

president's ramblings

Terry Roberts



down to Pembina ND on Sunday afternoon/evening to do a good deed. As some of you will know both Panda and Winston are rescues from Hull Haven Border Collie Rescue. So Sunday afternoon on behalf of the two of them we procured a van and loaded up with 9 dog kennels and headed for the border. Our mission, to be the last leg in a trip which started two days ago to rescue 9 dogs from shelters in different states. These dogs were for no reason other than they had been abandoned, had been sentenced to death. These dogs had come from different rescues in the states and are on their way now to caring homes in places like Thompson, Vancouver and Winnipeg. When we met up with our counterpart in Pembina and did the transfer the dogs were understandably a little scared but considering what has happened to them, over the last few days and before that, very receptive and friendly. Two had been chained up all their lives, one of these dogs, Daisy a 5 year old

border collie with grey and white colouring is one of the friendliest and most delightful dogs I have met, she is adorable. They were all well behaved, though one, if given a chance would have bolted and at only 6 months old very strong too.

Another, very shy little dog tested Kerry's patience in getting him out of his kennel and after she did and got him outside stood in the back yard of our delivery address and watered the snow like a champion.

The border guards in both directions, once they heard what we were there to do were very helpful and the US customs officer even let Kerry cross the border without a current passport when we told him we would only be about an hour.

Next time the call goes up we'll be there. I'm not telling you this for thanks, the dogs themselves did that in a way no person could ever do, but some time if you get the chance to help one of the rescue organisations, go ahead, it's a great feeling.

Hope to see all of you at the Australia/Waitangi Day event.

Terry

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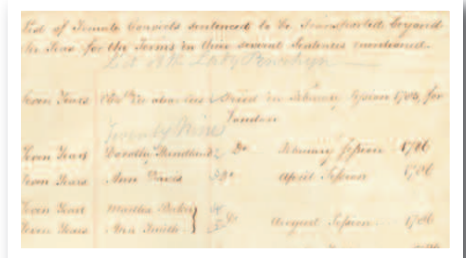
Mr Squiggle's Miss Pat dies

Patricia Lovell, the movie producer behind Australian classics and but better known to children of the '60s and early '70s as Miss Pat from the TV show , has died aged 83.

News Ltd websites report Lovell died on Saturday from liver cancer with her children, son Simon and daughter Jenny, by her side.

Lovell began her career in radio and television and apart from also appeared in the original TV version of Beauty and the Beast.

She became the anchorwoman for the early morning Sydney Today Show in 1969, where she later met director Peter Weir who went on to direct the Australian Film Institute (AFI) award-winning films Gallipoli and Picnic at Hanging Rock. [Read more link]



Earliest convict arrivals recorded online

The arrival records of the First Fleet, and some of our most famous convicts, are now available on the web.

RECORDS OF THE EARLIEST convict arrivals to Australia have been made available online, to mark the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney cove on 26 January 1788.

Sentenced Beyond the Seas is a digital project run by State Records NSW. The archive, now available online, contains scans

of the original arrival records of convicts between the years 1788 and 1801.

There are more than 12,000 names among the records for this period. [Read more link]

Arrival records of first beer brewer in Australia

Among the digitized records is a convict whose name survives as a brewery, known today as James Squires. James Squire was the first person in Australia known to have successfully grown hops for the purpose of brewing his own beer.

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Here, fishy fishy...

The big one didn't get away from 7-year-old Hunter Scott, whose 133kg

striped marlin is the talk of the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club.

The Kerikeri boy - who weighs just 23kg himself - was out fishing with his father Adam and grandparents Keith and Christine when he felt the pull of what he thought might be a big fish just off Nine Pin Rock.

"We thought it was a little shark but then Granddad shouted out it was a marlin. He saw it jump just after we hooked it," said Hunter.

"First the line was going out ... and then I did a few unwinds but then it took all of that line back out ... I did a few more winds and dad said it was 30m of line left so I kept winding and you saw this thing coming towards the boat."

It took an hour and a quarter to haul in. His arms took a beating.

"They're not sore now but I was really tired afterwards." [Read more link]

Bypass helps right wrong from past

Waikato Expressway project goes some way to remedying Maori grievance over road-works done in 1960s.

Maori fortifications from one of the fiercest battles of the 19th century land wars will be commemorated as part of a \$105 million highway bypass of Rangiriri in the Waikato.

Preparatory work is due to start this week on the project - another link in the \$2.4 billion Waikato Expressway - which will move State Highway 1 to the west of Rangiriri and a hill which was the most heavily defended point in a battle in which up to 130 British and colonial troops and 41 Maori died 150 years ago.

Motorists will not be the only beneficiaries from late 2016 of a straighter alignment, closer to the Waikato River, for the new 4.8km stretch between Te Kauwhata Rd and Rangiriri to be built by Fletcher Construction.

The project will also go some way towards remedying a grievance held by Waikato Tainui Maori over the construction of SH1 in the 1960s through the middle of the old Rangiriri pa site and a trench which extended much of the way from the river to Lake Waikare to the east, an escape route for many of the defenders. [Read more link]

NZ broadcaster Holmes dies

TOP-RATING New Zealand radio and television broadcaster Sir Paul Holmes has died. [Read more link]:

Ken Clark...(retired in NZ)

...basking in 28 - 38 C. weather in Hawke's Bay and hope that you are over your real cold weather.

We have been in Winnipeg each of the past two years and had lunch with Alen Hansen and Gordon Keatch but not had time to come to a Down Under Club meeting. Perhaps in 2014 if all goes well.

Kindest regards to all in the Down Under Club. Ken

[read more news online of our PDF version]

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Greg Link

Although Greg is a Winnipegger, he has developed a close affinity with Australia. He grew up in North Kildonan, completing Business Administration and Business Teacher Education at Red River College after high school. He then relocated to Thompson, Manitoba for three years, teaching at the high school for two years before becoming an Educational Computer Consultant for one.

While in his third year in the North, he received a wedding invitation from a friend in Canberra. As we all know, it is tough to fly to Australia for a weekend so he sent video greetings along with several resumes for her to distribute. The Victorian Ministry of Education happened to be recruiting Business and Computer teachers, so in 1989 he headed off to OZ, landing at East Loddon School, located near Bendigo, Victoria.

He played hockey during his time in Victoria, traveling to Melbourne to play with the league premier Saints for a season before becoming the playing coach of newly established Bendigo Raiders hockey club. The Raiders won the premiership their first year in the league and he was subsequently asked to coach the Australia Under 21 National Development team to tour New Zealand. After a year and a half in Victoria, he went North again, this time to the tropics of Townsville to teach.

Greg Link visiting
a school in Africa



In 1991, Greg became a dual citizen before returning to Winnipeg to teach at Tec Voc High School. Greg's wife Kim is also a Winnipegger and co-owner of Sokal Industries, makers of custom-built trailers. They have three children. 21 year-old Rachel is in her third year of Sciences at the University of Winnipeg. Mitchell, 19, is in second year in Commerce at the University of Manitoba. Michael, 18, attends Kildonan East School, and is expected to graduate this year as an HVAC technician. All three work as life-guards for the City of Winnipeg. Six years ago, Greg took a six-month leave of absence and the whole family went to Oz, visiting friends and acquaintances from Adelaide to Cairns.

Two decades later Greg still can be found at Tec Voc. His role has changed as he now facilitates Career Development and Apprenticeship placements for high school students and recruits high school graduates for their highly touted adult Aerospace program. Our

members are encouraged to contact Greg at greglink@wsd1.org if their business or employer needs skilled workers or if they have friends or family interested in a career in Aerospace.

Greg coaches the golf team at Tec Voc, and stays active cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and, of course, playing hockey. Seeing the world is a passion of his as he has been to several countries including Russia, Finland and South Africa this past year. Greg's family was shy and didn't want their picture published so he included a photo from a school visit during his conference in Durban, SA.

Greg was doing some work around the East St Paul Community Centre about nine years ago and was introduced to the DUCW by Peter Debenham. As always, another interesting find from our membership ranks.

Gordon Keatch

Letter to the Editor

Huge thanks to Kerry Nowicki, Margaret Munn and Judy Powell for all their hard work in the kitchen at the recent Australia Day and Waitangi Day event.

Everyone contributes to the success of these events in one way or another, but some members go above and beyond so others can have a great time.

I know they're not in it for the money, or the accolades, but it was great to have Kerry, Marg and Judy working behind the scenes to keep the noodles and the food flowing for the rest of us, and making sure everything was cleaned up afterward.

Maybe next time, some of the rest of us can man the kitchen, so to speak, and let those three get out front to enjoy the festivities more.

Thanks also to David Denesovych and Charlie Powell for managing the bar, and to Debbie Griffiths for the delicious and spectacularly decorated cake. Thanks to each of you – your hard work is appreciated and acknowledged.

Jenny Gates

All About Hudson the polar bear

(See story on page 6)

Birth Date: October 11, 2011

Age: 16 months old

Weight: 410 pounds (January 2013)

Parents: Hudson's mother Aurora resides at the Toronto Zoo. His father, Inukshuk, visits the Toronto Zoo for breeding purposes.

Diet: Hudson's diet includes jumbo smelt and herring, carrots, Vitamin E and Thiamine supplements.

Nickname: At the Toronto Zoo, Hudson was known as "The Ham". He could be found gallivanting around his enclosure and entertaining Zoo guests with his hilarious antics. He loves to be the centre of attention.





Large person's fall could collapse NZ block of flats

Some flat dwellers have been living dangerously in Wellington. Testimony to that is that tenants poured out of a block of flats after Housing New Zealand said its façade was so weak that “a large person falling in the wrong place could have caused masonry to fall off the building.”

The exodus was sparked the week after 131 residents were given just seven days to leave the Gordon Wilson Flats. The letter said the facade had deteriorated seriously since concerns were first raised about problems in 2010.

“In the worst case it is even feasible that a large person falling heavily at a critical location would provide a sufficient force to dislodge elements [and force a collapse],” the letter from engineering consultants warned.

The letter followed a site inspection which said that in addition to this ongoing problem of ... pieces of concrete falling from the building, recent inspections have exposed an even more serious problems.”

In particular, concrete had cracked and fallen away around pins holding supporting columns in place, so that some columns and precast panels could fall away with only a little force.

Fiji's military boss's rejection of revised constitution dismays secretary-general

The military government in Suva has rejected a draft revision of the country's constitution that was solicited to set in process an end to Fiji's suspension from the Commonwealth.

The document was prepared by a Fijian Constitutional Commission, chaired by Prof Yashpal Ghai, a scholar of international standing on the subject of constitutional law.

Ghai, a professor at the University of Hong Kong, had been engaged to hold wide-ranging committee hearings to solicit public views on reforming the law in the south Pacific nation and frame the new constitution in Commonwealth terms.

In London, the Secretary General Kamallesh Sharma called the decision to reject the constitution report “regrettable.”

After an unsettled two years that displaced the elected government, in May 2000, Armed Forces Commander Commodore Frank Bainimarama emerged as pro-tem president and had directed a militarily-driven administration ever since, promising from

time to time eventual free and fair elections to restore democracy. His administration, which splits the nation racially between Hindu and aboriginal, has grown increasingly harsh.

Kenya likely to offer election excitement next month

Kenya heads to the polls on March 4, so if you are headed there as a tourist be aware of the security situation. Remember, more than 1,000 people died and 600,000 were displaced in the inter-ethnic fighting that broke out during the disputed 2007 last election.

Also, the prospect for April doesn't exactly augur peace. That's when four Kenyans – including Uhuru Kenyatta, a frontrunner in the 2013 election – will face trial before the International Criminal Court (ICC) for their alleged role in post-election violence.

And with the stakes for political power so acrid, the risk of violence is high in the race to replace president Mwai Kibaki.

Some of the threats ahead embrace tension fuelled by the political unrest and a degree of anti-western feeling. Kidnapping in some areas in support of insurgents is a constant danger. Indeed, a number of fatal ambushes occurred last month and autos have been fired on by a gunman dressed in a police uniform. And the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office has also reported a spate of grenade, IED and armed attacks in Nairobi, Mombasa and Garissak, likely election-related activity.

Oz family survives flames with heads just above water

“We saw tornadoes of fire just coming towards us,” Tim Holmes told ABC reporters. “And the next thing we knew, everything was on fire, everywhere all around us,” Tim Holmes said.

Holmes and his family narrowly escaped the flames bearing down on them by jumping in the water, neck deep, and stayed there for three hours at the edge of their property, taking refuge under a wooden jetty.

He was describing the terror he and his family – his wife, Tammy, and their five grandchildren, aged 2 to 11 – experienced near Dunally, in Tasmania, in one of the worst seasons of wildfire that swept wide swaths of the country this summer.

The Holmes' harrowing experience was matched by thousands of families all over Australia, with some loss of life and billions lost as livestock and properties were turned to ashes.

“For us, there was no other escape ... The difficulty was there was so much smoke and embers, and there was probably only 200

millimetres to 300 millimetres of air above the water,” Holmes said.

Despite the hot temperatures, the water was very cold and the family huddled together for warmth.

Kiwi made new boss of Commonwealth Foundation

The Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand of New Zealand is the new chairman of the Commonwealth Foundation in Marlborough House, London. Appointed by heads of government, he will serve an initial term of up to two years.

Sir Satyanand was governor-general of NZ from 2006-2011 and previously spent two five-year terms as one of the country's parliamentary ombudsmen.

He expressed delight at the honor and said he looked forward to advancing the foundation's encouragement of civil society and professional organizations.

As chairman of the foundation, Sir Satyanand will preside over its board of governors, represent it at intergovernmental meetings and events, and promote the Foundation's vision and values.

Vijay Krishnarayan, Commonwealth Foundation Director said: “We are honoured to welcome Sir Anand Satyanand as the Commonwealth Foundation's new chair. His background and experience will be real assets to the Foundation and help advance its agenda of citizen participation and inclusion in governance systems.”

The new Hobbit magic draws fans to New Zealand

Hobbit appeal has surged since the film's worldwide release, and with that travel websites are reporting huge growth in searches and bookings for New Zealand, Fairfax News reports.

Tourism chief executive David Perks said he had noted a growth in interest in New Zealand as a travel destination in Britain, “and a much more positive vibe about bookings” since September.

The international media coverage of Wellington's hosting of the premiere had clearly increased the city's global profile, and this was expected to lead to a surge in bookings.

“We were really pleased how much coverage we achieved. We knew from when Wellington hosted the last Lord of the Rings premiere (The Return of the King) in 2003 that coverage meant a significant surge in bookings, but we weren't sure how different global financial conditions would affect that,” Perks said.

- Murray Burt



Early contact: Australia

Some years back I bought a book edited by Tim Flannery, titled "The Explorers", from an ABC store in Australia. It's an anthology documenting almost four centuries of exploration and includes the work of Eyre, Giles, Hume and Hovell, Leichhardt, Mitchell, Stuart, Sturt, Wills, and many others. One episode, involving Charles Sturt, has stayed with me.

The picture above shows Sturt and his party in a desperate situation. But look closely up on the left bank: there is a native running hard and about to dive into the river. He is a "chief" who Sturt had encountered earlier and made peace with. This man had subsequently realized the danger from the next tribe further along the river and took action. His courage and timing were perfect and enabled Sturt to maintain his reputation for not killing any aboriginals. This other reference takes up the story:

The day of 23 January, 1830 takes us to the dramatic and dangerous happenings of the Murray-Darling junction. The sail had been hoisted for the first time, and the boat was speeding when, without warning, the men saw the river shoaling fast. A huge sandbank, projecting nearly a third of the way across the channel was crowded with hostile Aborigines. The boat ran aground. The crew were sitting shots; an engagement looked certain. "The men were given guns but instructed not to fire until I had discharged both my barrels."

An intervening chief to which Sturt had previously held out a peace offering, swam across the stream. He was a man of authority, and he persuaded them to lower their spears. Watchful, but cool and entirely fearless, Sturt kept control of the situation. The peacemaker received a gift; guns were put away and the boat pushed off the sandbank... "Then it was just as she floated again that our attention was withdrawn to a new and beautiful stream coming from the north." It was the Darling. The explorers proceeded upstream followed on both banks by Aborigines, curious and chattering volubly, still armed but not so ill-disposed. Macleay threw them a tin kettle as a further peace-offering.

[Read more link] Charlie Powell



Introducing Hudson...

G'day all, Even though the weather is the coldest it's been so far, it didn't stop Assiniboine Park Zoo from giving a warm welcome to Hudson, a 16-month-old polar bear.

Born at the Toronto Zoo in October 2011, Hudson was the only surviving cub in a litter of three and was closely monitored and cared for around the clock by Toronto Zoo veterinary staff for the first three months of his life.

The move to the Assiniboine Park Zoo marks the next step in Hudson's life as he continues to mature into an adult male bear. This is so exciting for all of us at the Assiniboine Park Zoo and a big step forward in the Zoo's polar bear program.

The International Polar Bear Conservation Centre (IPBCC) will be Hudson's temporary home for the next 16 to 18 months until the completion of the Journey to Churchill exhibit in 2014. The outdoor enclosure at the IPBCC has been renovated to specifically accommodate polar bears and is three times its original size. A key component of the new 10-acre Journey to Churchill exhibit currently under construction, the IPBCC supports and facilitates research efforts that contribute to environmental and wildlife education and the conservation of polar bears and other Arctic species.

As Hudson nears the age of maturity, the hope is that he will be paired with a female and contribute to the Species Survival Plan (SSP) breeding program. Assiniboine Park Zoo has had a long history of conservation initiatives and participation in the SSP and currently has several species that are part of this program. With so much happening at the Zoo, now is a great time to come and meet Hudson.

Come say G'day and watch him play in mid February! Also keep an eye out for a bit of an Aussie touch at the Zoo this summer.

Tim Sinclair-Smith
Director, Zoological Operations, Assiniboine Park Zoo



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Hello from Lucia in NZ

Summer here is great ...and fortunately not like last year which was the pits. Still in Chch altho have been flitting around the South Island at times.... and have had beautiful sunny days for the most part in the mid to high 20s - Love it.

Was in Picton visiting with a school friend last week and it is so lovely all around that whole area. Was in Kaiteriteri for a few days last year and with my friend who does these mini trips with me each year, we were going to do Nelson this year, but she is coming with me to Rarotonga in April, so maybe Nelson will be next year.

Take care and Greeting from sunny Chch :-) Lucia

100yearsago

history from downunder

Oamaru Scott 100

On February 10th 1913 the Terra Nova arrived off New Zealand's little Harbour of Oamaru bearing the news of Scott's Antarctic expedition and its fate.

This momentous epic of exploration will be marked at the point of return from the Antarctic in the Oamaru Harbour February 6th to 10th 2013.

Oamaru Harbour will come alive with the celebration of a golden age in exploration. 100 years since the Terra Nova arrived off Oamaru Harbour the town will host five days of events including sea and land activities, education and adventure programmes, art, theatre, literature and lectures.



The Terra Nova

Australia

In 1913, February saw the turning of the first sod for the Kalgoorlie to Port Augusta section of the trans-continental railway, a landmark for Australian infrastructure. This is a black-and-white photograph of the construction camp train used by workers building the Trans-Australian Railway track between Kalgoorlie and Port Augusta from 1913 to 1917.



Links:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra_Nova_\(ship\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra_Nova_(ship))

<http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz/event/season/939>

<http://www.canberra100.com.au/calendar/view/303/glorious-days-australia-1913/>

<http://vrroom.naa.gov.au/print/?ID=19394>