

The Southern Yarn

January 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

January

downundercalendar 2012

details on page 3

JANUARY

- **Saturday January 28, 6:00 pm**
- **Australia Day/Waitangi Day**
- **Annual cookoff - Shepherd's Pie**
- **POTLUCK DINNER**

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

- Come out and celebrate our national days!
- Cook up your best Shepherd's Pie recipe and/or bring a complementary main dish, salad or veggie dish, and anything else that will go great with the many pies we hope to have on offer. The Club will bring a great big cake, so you can focus on the mains and the complements.

MARCH

- **Bowling**
- Stay tuned for details.

APRIL

- **ANZAC Day**
- Stay tuned for details.



Our national days fall into mid-summer celebrations back home, and a little colder in Winnipeg. Photos: Australia Day, Sydney Harbour, 2004, Phil Whitehouse. Inset: Traditional Maori Waitangi Day celebrations at Waitangi, Paihia, 2006. Both images from Wikipedia.

RSVP

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

Join us on FACEBOOK



We now have 54 friends in our Facebook group. Join us today and get extra news and timely reminders of events and activities. www.facebook.com/pages/Down-Under-Club-of-Winnipeg/115975501754598

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Australia Day and Waitangi Day

Welcome to the first event of 2012! And what an event it will be. Nothing quite as good as celebrating our national days, but how did these come to be?

Australia Day is the official national day of Australia and it is celebrated every year on January 26. That date commemorates the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove in 1788, as well as the proclamation at that time of British sovereignty over the eastern seaboard of New Holland. Records of celebrations on January 26 date back to 1808, with the first official celebration of the formation of New South Wales held in 1818. It is presently an official public holiday in every state and territory of Australia, and is celebrated in large and small communities and cities around the nation by community festivals, concerts and citizenship ceremonies. The day is marked by the Australian of the Year Awards and announcement of the Honours List for the Order of Australia.

Waitangi Day is the official national day

of New Zealand. It is celebrated every year on February 6, and commemorates a significant day in the history of New Zealand. It is a public holiday that celebrates on that date in 1840 the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, New Zealand's founding document. The Treaty of Waitangi was signed at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands. It officially made New Zealand a part of the British Empire, guaranteed Maori rights to their land, and gave Maori the rights of British subjects. The signing of the treaty was not commemorated until 1934. In 1973 the New Zealand Day Act made the day a public holiday and renamed it New Zealand Day, but when the Waitangi Day Act was passed in 1976, it changed the name of the day back to Waitangi Day.

So, now you know all the facts, make a date to join your fellow members and guests for our Australia Day and Waitangi Day celebrations. Remember, it's a potluck and cook-off, with our special guest SHEPHERD'S PIE. See page 3 for all the details!

editorially yours

Jenny Gates



Wow, what a change in the weather. As our president, Terry, points out in his message (opposite), the temperatures have been up and down, and thus far the snow has barely graced us with its presence. I don't mind the temps so much as the windy conditions, which really muck up my hair!

More seriously, as you have gathered by the article on the front page, our Australia Day and Waitangi Day event is just around the corner. Looking forward to tasting all those delicious Shepherd's pies you are planning on bringing for the cook-off. Because it's a potluck dinner, if you're not making a Shepherd's pie, please cook up a different main dish. We also need lots of salads and veggie dishes to complement the main course. And the Club is providing the cake. Yum!

Details of the Australia Day and Waitangi Day event are on page 3, and note that we also have the bowling coming up in March as well as our ANZAC Day event in April.

Other pages in this issue have the news from home (page 4), although just a bit of news because we have a fabulous ad from the Province of Manitoba on Positive Parenting (page 5). We also get the chance to officially meet Santiago Silva and Adriana Damasceno (page 6) and read all the latest news from the Commonwealth (page 7).

Sit back and enjoy the read, and we'll see you all on January 28!

Happy New Year to everyone in the Club and associated with the Club. What a great start to 2012, eh! Temperatures at record highs and almost no snow on the ground. Almost like living in Toronto – I know I said that bad word! I lived in Toronto for 13 years and this is the type of weather we used to have, maybe a little more damp. Even though I have lived in Winnipeg now for 17 years, I still like to return every now and again to visit and catch up on what is happening in Canada's biggest city.

This year is shaping up to be another interesting year for the Club with events planned for January, March and April so far. We are still looking for that elusive "Social Events Coordinator" to help things move along more smoothly. Don't be shy now. There are benefits to getting involved.

The Board had its first meeting of 2012 and is excited about the upcoming year. Our membership is staying steady and the finances are looking good for 2012. The newsletter and website are improving all the time, giving our members and those interested in the Club information about



president's ramblings

Terry Roberts

what we are doing and news from our respective countries. It's a great way to keep members involved and up to date on the Club, and to get others interested at the same time.

For those of you who are interested, and I know you're out there, Panda and Winston have been enjoying this great weather, too, with walks to the park and around the neighbourhood. A couple of weeks ago they got a new cousin, Dexter – no relation to the TV serial killer. He's only about 5 pounds and a little ball of fluff, but very cute. Bogs (the cat) could take him out with two paws tied behind his back, and most likely will the first time they meet. Dexter has yet to meet Panda and Winston, but that will happen shortly.

Enjoy the mild weather as we are really going to feel it when it changes, and change it will.

Wanna be our SOCIAL COORDINATOR?

Don't be fooled — the position of social coordinator is lots of fun. You get to work with a fabulous executive and help set-up events for members throughout the year. Many of the events are already organised, and simply need someone to be the contact person and coordinate who is doing what. So, if you are organised, like working with people, have ideas for possible events, and are good at delegating, why not give this a go?

We need a social coordinator to lead the way and help us out. You won't be on your own. There's lots of support both on the executive and from within the Club. So think about it, and let us know. If you are interested, call Margaret Munn (237-1805 or margaret_munn@hotmail.com) and she'll answer any questions.

**Here's to a sweet and
savoury New Year!**

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Pies*



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What's up next ...

Saturday January 28, 6:00 pm
Australia Day & Waitangi Day
Annual Cook-off – Shepherd's
Pie and POTLUCK Dinner

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Come on out and celebrate our national days. The potluck event will feature our annual cook-off – with this year's offering SHEPHERD'S PIE. Dig out your best Shepherd's pie recipe and enter it in the cook-off, with all entries judged by your fellow members. Great prizes for the winners! If you don't want to bring a Shepherd's pie, then please bring a different main dish as part of the potluck. We also need lots of salads, veggie dishes, and other delicious complements to the main offerings. The Club is providing the dessert (a big birthday cake in honour of our respective homelands), so that will allow you to focus on the mains and the complements. Expect some didgeridoo playing, storytelling, reflections on home, and lots of camaraderie.

NEW PARKING RESTRICTIONS **at Scandinavian Cultural Centre**

For those who park off street in the Norampac lot during our functions at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre, please read the important notice from Selma Parsons, President, on this page.



Notice to all users of the Scandinavian Centre

Do not park in the Norampac parking lot at the corner of Wolever and Erin. The lot will now be monitored by Dr. Hook and cars will be towed. This is on a 24/7 basis.

Due to their increased need for parking spaces on a continual basis, Norampac is finding it necessary to restrict parking to its own staff. We will continue to try negotiate a deal for occasional usage with them and the other lot owners in the area.

We have talked to the owners of the Maple Leaf parking lot north of the building and have tentative assurance that there will be no problems with our members parking in that lot on Fridays and weekends and after 5 pm Monday through Thursday.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

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Gotta love
St Valentine's
Day



Treat yourself and the one you love to a fabulous night out on February 14. Book your evening with us and enjoy our special feature for couples. Delicious food, outstanding wines, and our always romantic atmosphere. We would LOVE to see you!

New hours:

Monday to Thursday 4:30 pm to 2:00 am,

Friday to Sunday 10:00 am to 2:00 am.

Brunch now on from Friday to Sunday.

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Can you resist?

Oz 'supermarket grazing' culprits

[Nov 10, 2011, Australian Food News, courtesy of Charlie Powell] Almost half of Australians are 'supermarket grazers', who admit helping themselves to free produce while shopping in supermarkets. Grazers taste food in the supermarket without paying for it, with 18-34 year olds apparently the main culprits. Table grapes are number one on the menu, followed by cherries, nuts, and surprisingly, snow peas and green beans. Most people pinch food because they were curious about the taste, but the rest simply can't resist the "grab and eat". "We don't mind if they taste a couple, but if they go back for more without buying, that's when it becomes stealing and our hardworking farmers and retailers lose out." Are you a supermarket grazer?



And there are more aftershocks to come. Photo: NZ Herald.

And she just keeps shaking

[Jan 6, 2012] Just after experts predicted more quakes for the region, a magnitude 5.0 earthquake struck Christchurch tonight, followed by a smaller 4.7 quake. And while there's unlikely to be another major quake on fault lines that have already been ruptured, the aftershocks are likely to continue for some time. According to seismologists, the current activity was "good news" because it meant pressure was relieving and the fault was "catching up". Also, the smaller quakes were more mentally damaging than physically damaging. If you say so.



Spectacular ... lightning hits the water at Rose Bay. Photo: Claire Kelly.

Time to batten down the hatches

[Jan 9, 2012] Wild storms swept through the state's central west and Sydney last night, dumping rain and providing a spectacular light and thunder show. The storms created havoc for several hours, but had abated by 10 pm. According to forecasters, about 10 mm of rainfall fell in 10 minutes at a number of locations, and wind gusts of 56 knots and higher were reported.



The crowd at Broadwater Parklands reacts to the Gold Coast's win. Photo: David Clark.

2018 Commonwealth Games are Gold!

[Nov 12, 2011, courtesy Natalia Hupalo] The Gold Coast has won the 2018 Commonwealth Games in a hard-fought battle with Hambantota. The final vote was 43-27 in the Gold Coast's favour, with lobbying and presentations continuing right up to the vote. The Commonwealth Games is predicted to deliver \$2 billion in economic benefits to the Gold Coast and about 30,000 jobs in the next seven years. They will be held from April 4 to April 15, 2018. Bid team boss Mark Stockwell said he was overjoyed with the result. "I want everyone on the Gold Coast to celebrate and get right behind the Commonwealth Games."



A pod of dolphins at Rangiputa. Photo: Matthews family.

Dolphins show off aquabatics

[Jan 8, 2012] Pods of dolphins have been cruising the Northland coast, some putting on spectacular aerial displays like this pair off Rangiputa Beach in the Far North. Dolphins travel Northland's coastline all year round. About 400 of them in numerous pods were regulars on the Northland coast, but they could swim as far north as Cape Reinga and south to Tauranga. Meanwhile, on Farewell Spit near Nelson, seven stranded pilot whales died yesterday morning, but rescuers refloated 18 others. Last night, they were all swimming strongly. Very nice!



Photo: Sarah Ivey.

NZ rated friendliest country on earth

[Jan 14, 2012] According to a survey of expats, New Zealand is the friendliest place on earth, and Australia ranks well with people who don't call the country home. A total of 3,385 expatriates living in 100 countries were asked a number of questions as part of the 2011 HSBC Expat Explorer Survey. The results show many expats rate New Zealand highly in a number of categories, including how easy it is to befriend locals, fit into a new culture, and learn the language. Australia came second in the friendly stakes, followed by South Africa, Canada and America.

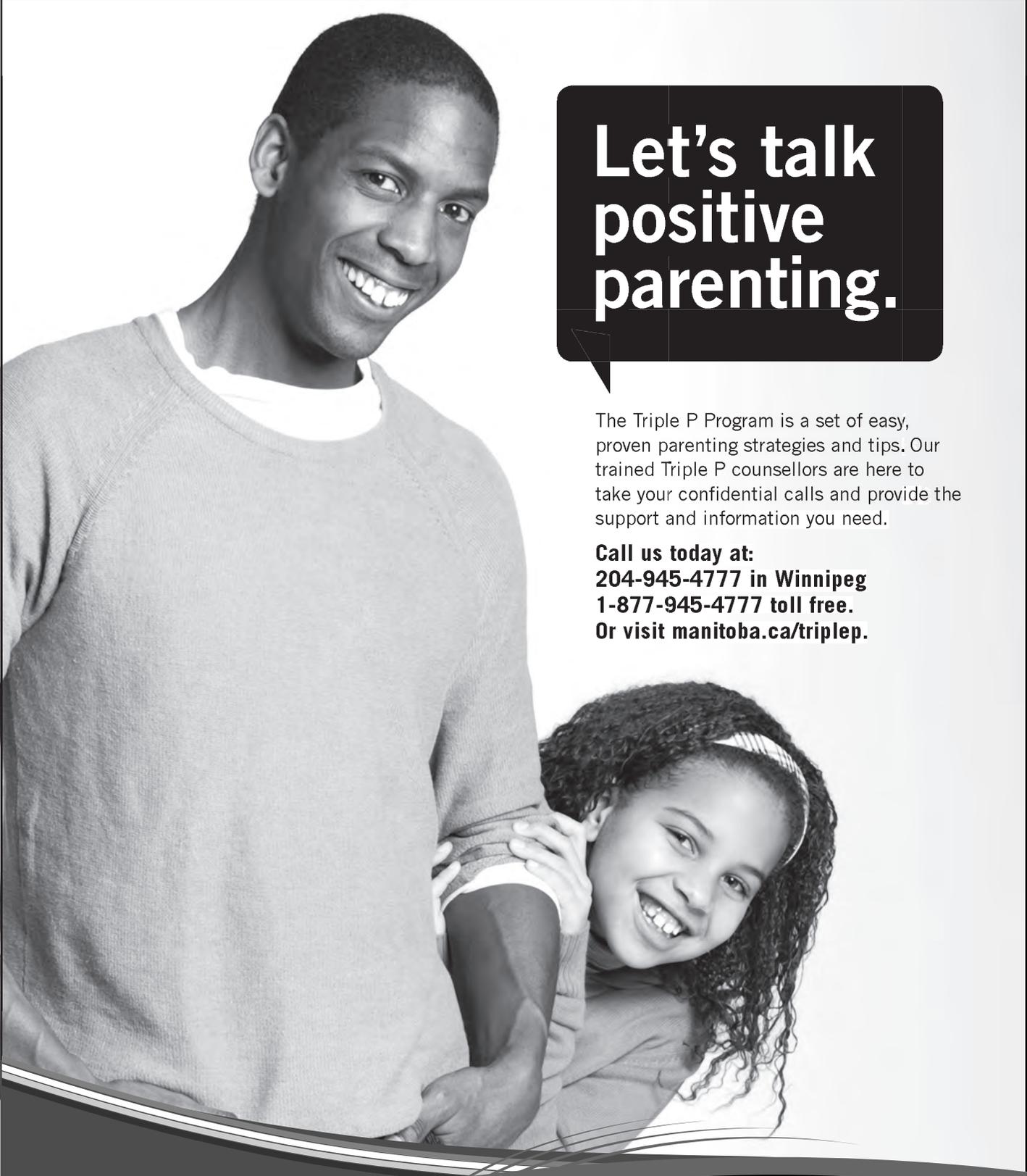
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A black and white photograph of a man and a young girl. The man is on the left, wearing a light-colored sweater over a white t-shirt, smiling broadly. The girl is on the right, with curly hair and a headband, hugging the man from behind and also smiling.

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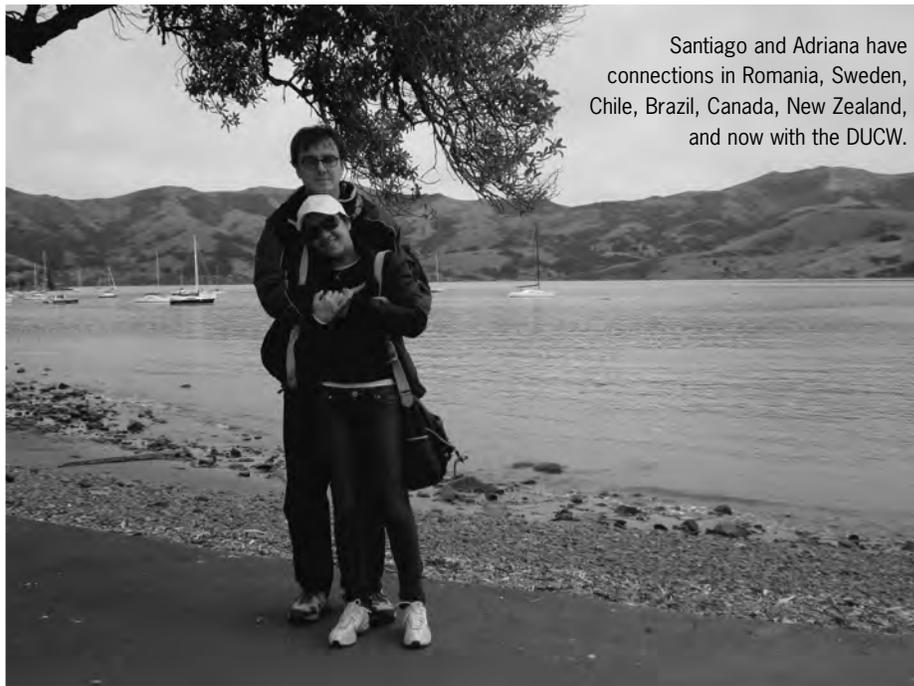
Santiago Silva and Adriana Damasceno

Santiago was born in Romania, but due to that country's unrest, his family moved to Sweden when he was two years old. He took his schooling there, including some vocational and computer courses.

In 2002, Santiago came to Winnipeg, though his brother and mother are still in Sweden and they visit occasionally. Santiago's dad worked at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre in Cancer Research, as well as the National Institute of Health (in D.C.); he is now retired and living in his native Chile again.

With his musical talent, Santiago played bass and guitar in several bands, though not as much now. He works for interpreting and translating companies in Canada and the United States, and is able to work on the phone or internet from home. He also owns some real estate that he rents out. (Only in Canada, eh?!)

Adriana was born in Brazil, where she went to school and earned a bachelor degree in business administration. In 2008, she went to Vancouver to improve her English – it is really quite good [GK] – and there she met Santiago.



Santiago and Adriana have connections in Romania, Sweden, Chile, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, and now with the DUCW.

Adriana is now project manager for a translation company, and in her spare time she likes to work out and spend time with her friends.

In 2008 and again in 2009, Santiago and Adriana visited New Zealand, spending most of their time in Christchurch. They liked the country so much that in 2010, they joined the DUCW to meet up with some ex-pat Newzies.

So next time you see them, say “Kia Ora” – I know they'll know what you mean!

Gordon Keatch

Help us get to know you!

Thanks to Gordon Keatch, this column has introduced us more thoroughly to many of our DUCW members. If you would like us to get to know you a bit better, or if you have a suggestion of another member we have not yet profiled, please contact Gordon at 832-4405.

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Things getting nastier in Nigeria

A militant Islamist group has embraced motorcycle-mounted terrorism to deliver fear and death in Nigeria, a nation that used to be one of the Dark Continent's most contented societies.

As a result of the killings, President Goodluck Jonathan has declared a state of emergency in the areas of the country shaken by this growing insurgency.

The trouble is primarily between Christians and Moslems in the north of Nigeria where things have been very bloody. The occasional suicide bomber is also supplementing biker killers too frequently.

Apart from spreading general terror, the militant group, Boko Haram, has targeted a number of journalists for "actions deemed offensive to the group." According to Boko Haram bosses, this includes their quoting people who claim to be part of the sect but are not official members.

To make their point, they shot a journalist in front of his home recently. A gunman travelling by car with two others fatally felled Alhaji Zakariya at close range with a Kalashnikov rifle in Maiduguri, Borno, in northeastern Nigeria. Zakariya, a father of two, was a reporter and cameraman with Nigeria Television Authority (NTA).

Some reporter protection agencies say journalists covering the Boko Haram movement, which wants to establish Sharia law in northern Nigeria, have been harassed by security officials looking for information about the rebel outfit.

Agence France Press said the sect justified its brutal attacks in an emailed statement by saying the journalist were giving information about the group's activities to security agencies.

The Federation of African Journalists warned that more journalists could be killed if the government doesn't put in place concrete measures to protect them. Journalists also cite the failure of Nigerian officials to properly investigate the killings of other colleagues.

NTA bureau found three other journalists fled the Maiduguri area after receiving threatening phone calls. Boko Haram, which translates to "western education is forbidden", has claimed responsibility for numerous fatal shootings and bombings in Nigeria, including the August suicide bombing at the United Nations headquarters in Abuja that killed 23 people.

Monuments to unfairness at India-Bangladesh border

Mohammed Idris Ali's watery rice paddies shimmer in the monsoon breeze just like those of his neighbours. His tepee-shaped stacks of jute, ready to be soaked, stripped and then turned into rope, stand as tall as the ones across the rutted footpath. But his little plot is a Bangladeshi island of despair.

As Lydia Polgreen of the *New York Times* writes in a moving piece, the house across the footpath from Mr Ali's sits in Madahya Masaldanga, India, and its owner, Chitra Das, has all the trappings of citizenship. He has a voter ID and a ration card that entitles him to discounted rice and wheat at a government shop. His children go to local schools, and the family has access to Indian government hospitals.

It's a shamefully careless shortcoming of officialdom and nationalism that assures one citizen civilization and his neighbour squalor. But there is hope of change ahead.

Deeptiman Sengupta, a local activist who has been trying to help enclave dwellers get identity documents, said someone must take responsibility for them. "India says it is the world's biggest democracy. Bangladesh is also a democracy. Yet these people are truly stateless."

Mr. Ali's home and farm is in an archipelago of villages, known as enclaves, that are technically Bangladeshi territory, but sit entirely surrounded by India, stuck on the wrong side of the border. "The Indians say we are not Indian; the Bangladeshis say we are not Bangladeshi. We are nowhere."

There are 50 other Bangladeshi enclaves like Mr. Ali's inside India; there are 111 Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh. The people of the enclaves are orphans, citizens of no country.

After decades of indecision, the hope that lies ahead depends on the resolve of the national leaders. Resolution is near. When India's prime minister, Manmohan Singh, travelled to Bangladesh late last year to meet his Bangladeshi counterpart, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, they signed an agreement that would finally allow the enclaves to dissolve into the country already surrounding them.

Under that agreement, the 37,334 nominal Indians living inside Bangladesh will become Bangladeshis, if they wish, and the 14,215 Bangladeshis on the Indian side of the border will become Indians. Anyone who wants to move across the border will be permitted to do so, but officials on each side say any major movement is unlikely.

People living in the enclaves are cautiously hopeful.



A helium-inflated shark is tested by Press reporters Michael Wright, left, Keith Lynch, right, and Marc Greenhill, obscured. Photo: Dean Kozanic.

Someone's asking, "Has anybody seen my missing shark?"

Picture this: You're on a final approach to the airport at Christchurch, flying your family jet home from a wonderful Samoan holiday on its palm-fringed wave-lapped beaches. Suddenly your eye glimpses the unusual, the impossible, a shark swimming along above you at 2,000 feet.

You thought you'd left shark worries further north. Sounds impossible fiction, eh? Not so fast.

An Air New Zealand pilot can share some remarkably similar true details with his Boxing Day experience. He radioed ground control to announce the unlikely sighting of a shark flying at several thousand feet.

That fish out of water turned out to be a remote-controlled, helium-filled shark – one of the variety that has topped the must-have Christmas present lists at about \$99 (and up).

The 1.44-metre-long Air Swimmer toy has a radio receiver attached to its underside. It can be operated by remote control over a range of 15m, but it is recommended by the manufacturer for indoor use. The Christmas shark cruiser obviously sought and had found freedom.

A spokeswoman for air traffic control company Airways, Monica Davis, said a pilot had reported the shark and its location about 9 km from the airport at 2 pm on December 26.

Glen Kenny, president of the NZ Air Line Pilots' Association said a helium-filled shark balloon would not pose a serious risk if it was sucked into an aircraft engine. "It probably wouldn't stop it, but it would do a bit of damage. Helium is an inert gas, so there's no issue in that regard. The biggest hazard would be startling the pilot."

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 Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.

remember

members of our club



15% at The Billabong

A reminder to everyone about the very generous opportunity provided to DUCW members by Owen, Erin and Peter at The Billabong. Take your DUCW membership card with you and show to the staff there for a 15% discount off your Wednesday night "in the lounge" menu. [Note: **Wednesday nights only!**] What would be great is if we started a regular gathering in the lounge of DUCW members and friends. Excellent way to sample the fabulous food and atmosphere at this wonderful Aussie restaurant.

Royal Commonwealth Society

Congratulations to the slate of RCS officers for 2012:

President – Murray Burt
Vice-president – Dwight MacAulay
Youth Vice-President – to be elected by Youth Council
Secretary – Elizabeth Burt
Treasurer – Fee Mounteer, with Elizabeth Burt interim co-treasurer

Two of our members, Murray and Betsy Burt, are on that executive, and Murray is the author of Commonwealth Corner, which you can find at page 7 of this issue.

bottomfivesites

some favourite links to follow

booklamp.org — wanna find a new book to read?
www.murrundi.org – Tal Kin Jeri on tour
www.scott-sports.com/ca_en/product/11028/61106/220417 — very cool goggles with a very cool story
www.thelongpaddock.com — take the historic Cobb Highway route
www.abc.net.au/mediawatch — Oz program that focuses on 'bad' media

funnybusiness

down under humour - courtesy Lou Savinsky



High!

A koala was sitting in a gum tree smoking a joint when a little lizard walked past, looked up and said, "Hey Koala! What are you doing?"

The koala said, "Smoking a joint. Come up and have some."

So the little lizard climbed up and sat next to the koala where they enjoyed a few joints.

After a while the little lizard said that his mouth was 'dry' and he went to get a drink from the river. However, the little lizard was so stoned that he leaned over too far and fell into the river.

A crocodile saw this and swam over to the little lizard and helped him to the side. Then he asked the little lizard, "What's the matter with you?"

The little lizard explained to the crocodile that he had been sitting with the koala in the tree, smoking a joint, but got too stoned and fell into the river while taking a drink.

The crocodile said that he had to check this out and walked into the rainforest. Eventually he found the tree where the koala was sitting finishing a joint.

The crocodile looked up and said, "Hey you!"

The koala looked down at him and said, "What the heck, dude. How much water did you drink?"

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The electronic version of this newsletter typically contains extra pages of content (in colour!), and can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services.

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The Southern Yarn

February 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

February

downundercalendar 2012

details on page 3

MARCH

Friday March 16, 7:00 pm
5-pin Bingo Bowling

Windsor Park Lanes, 678 Elizabeth Rd

Going to be a great night out for bowling enthusiasts and non-bowlers alike. The game of 5-pin bowling is fun and fast — fabulous for all ages. Teams and individual players welcome. Bowling will be \$15.00 for adults, kids under 10 free, and includes 4 games of bowling, snack foods, and prizes. Contact Terry (663-6549) to reserve your spot.

APRIL

ANZAC Day

Saturday April 28, 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 wonderful potluck dinner. More details in the March Yarn.



Home, sweet home!

Kids, cake, 2-up
and Shepherd's Pie.
It's all good.

Australia and New Zealand, how we love you. However, the longer we are away, it seems the more we forget about you. That fact was proven at the recent Australia Day and Waitangi Day event where our recollection and current affairs knowledge was tested, thanks to this quiz compiled by Brad Tyler-West. We want to share the quiz with you all, so good luck and have fun – but no Googling! Oh, and feel free to boast about your results by emailing us at info@downunderclub.mb.ca. Answers are on the back page of this issue.

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AUSTRALIA

1. What was Australia's population in 2010?
2. Name the architect of the Sydney Opera House. What country was he from?
3. Name the first place in Australia to see the sun.
4. What Australia's major industry? List 2 of the top 3 commodities or things sold in this industry.
5. What are Australia's next two biggest industries?
6. State the current population of sheep per person in Australia (2010).
7. List the following cities in order of their population (2010) — Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth
8. Which of these are not real Aussie attractions — The Big Pineapple, The Big Mango, The Big Cow, The Big Banana, The House of Beer Bottles, The House of Shells
9. What is the longest beach in Australia?
10. Which famous Australian celebrity has a world-renowned yoga retreat in Bryon Bay?
11. What is your favourite Aussie food or sweet?

NEW ZEALAND

1. What was New Zealand's population in 2010?
2. Name the architect of the Bee Hive. What country was he from?
3. Name the first place in NZ to see the sun.
4. What is New Zealand's major industry? List 2 of the top 3 commodities or things in this industry.
5. What are NZ's next two biggest industries?
6. State the current population of sheep per person in New Zealand (2010).
7. List the following cities in order of their population (2010) — Wellington, Auckland, Napier-Hastings, Christchurch, Hamilton
8. Which of the following are not real New Zealand attractions — Hobbiton, The Fox Glacier, The Sky Tower, Te Papa, The Red Rock, The Hobbiton Woods
9. What is the longest river in New Zealand?
10. Which famous New Zealander married Rod Stewart?
11. What is your favourite Kiwi food or sweet?

editorially yours

Jenny Gates



It's not often I get to spend an entire day away from my desk, without access to my computer and phone, and with no time to focus on any of my usual projects. So, it was quite the thrill to take a day off last Thursday, immerse myself in **TEDx Manito-ba**, and hear all the wonderful ideas and speakers.

Special treat was to hear three people I know give their presentations, including our very own Brad Tyler-West who spoke about "Grey Up". Rather than steal his thunder, check out his write-up at tedxmanitoba.com/speakers and stay tuned for a direct link to his presentation. However, I will say that there are lots of tips from his grandmother, which made for a wise and passionate presentation.

Back at the ranch on Friday, it was time to get the *Yarn* ready for print. Thanks again to all our contributors and to Brian for making room in his schedule to get this issue finished on time.

Good luck with the quiz (p. 1), and enjoy a literary account of a new winter destination (p. 2). Reflect on the goings-on from our most recent event (p. 3), and catch up all the news from home (p. 4). Discover what some of our past and present members have been up to (p. 5), and get to know the Sainsbury family (p. 6). Find out what's been happening in the Commonwealth (p. 7), and discover a connection of relevance to one of our members (p. 8).

And if it fits with your plans, take advantage of the many great services offered by our advertisers. We are hoping to be able to provide more access to them in the near future, so stay tuned for that.

Meanwhile, continue to navigate your way through our topsy turvy weather, and be grateful that at least it's not raining. Last word from my brother, Steve, is that they've had so much rain in his part of Australia, they are thinking of planting rice paddies in their backyard!

Another month has rolled around. The weather has been great so far this winter, but can it continue? That is the question.

At the moment I am battling a mean cold, the result of our return plane trip. It seems there is always someone on every plane with a cold/flu ready to share their germs with other unsuspecting travellers. Mind you, I have travelled enough to know you always run the risk of sickness when flying. Fortunately, I only got it on the return trip.

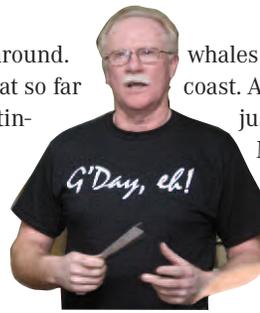
This month I'd like to recommend **San Diego, CA**, as a winter destination. Kerry and I went down there for a nine-day holiday a couple of weeks ago. The weather was in the high teens to low 20s – just right for visiting places like the world-famous San Diego Zoo, Safari Park, Sea World and Lego land.

We only had one day of rain, which was easily handled with the many indoor places to see, including museums of all kinds, from surfing to air and space, and theatres. The people we met were very friendly and helpful, from the hotel staff and tour operators to the locals we met on the street.

Some of the things I would recommend doing (other than those above) include:

- a trip on the Old Town Trolley – get off and on when you wish all day,
- the USS Midway – an aircraft carrier turned into a museum (the F18 flight simulator is really cool),
- a tour to Ensenada (Mexico) on Gray Line tours – a little of Mexico without the worries of driving.

Ensenada is a sea port situated down the California Baha, with beautiful beaches along the way and the possibility of seeing



president's ramblings

Terry Roberts

whales as they migrate south along the coast. A shorter trip would be to Tijuana, just across the border, for shopping, Mexican food and cheap cervezas.

If you would rather stay close to the city, head over the Coronado Bay Bridge to Coronado. This a very beautiful section of San Diego with great beaches and lots of shopping and restaurants. Other sections of interest in the city include Seaport Village, Gaslamp Quarter, Little Italy, and Old Town, the original town of San Diego and now a state historic park.

There are a number of whale-watching operators in San Diego. We took a 3½ hour tour on Hornblower Cruises and saw about a dozen whales, some closer than others, and a school of dolphins with what seemed like a couple of hundred individuals. The day we went out whale watching it was a beautiful day, perfect for being on the water.

The MTS or public transport makes it easy to get around with \$5.00 day passes – no need to rent a car. Most places can be accessed with the MTS.

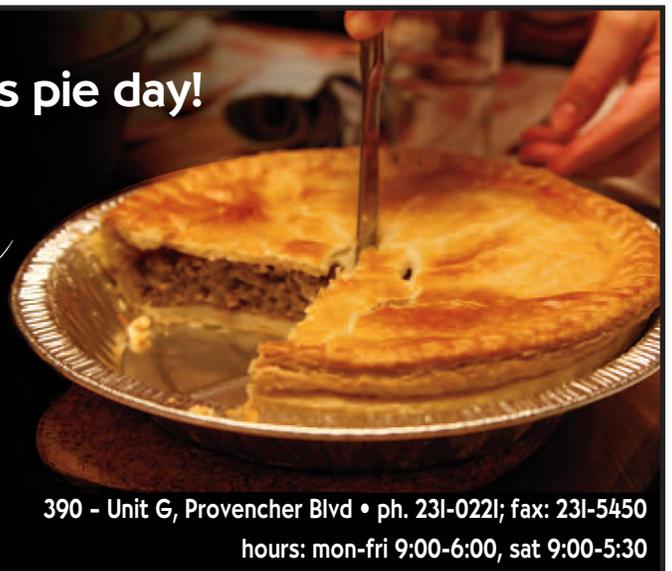
I highly recommend San Diego as a great getaway.

For those concerned about the guys, both Panda and Winston got their walks at the park. We had the Dogfather (dog walking service) come by, pick them up each day and take them to the park. Plus we had a friend stay here and look after them and Bogs.

The Bingo Bowl is on again this year on March 16th (Friday night) so come on out and have some fun with us.

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What happened ...

Australia Day and Waitangi Day

This event on January 28 drew a relatively small crowd of about 25 people who enjoyed an evening of food, fun and frivolity. However, everything got underway after a warm welcome and a rousing rendition of our three national anthems.

Then we dived right into dinner. Thanks to all who brought salads, veggie combos, sausage rolls, and other assorted yummys. There were four Shepherd's pies up for judging, and the winners were Charlie Powell (1st), Margaret Munn (2nd), Lynley Davidson (3rd) and Norm Griffiths (4th). Each of them walked away with a great prize, and the rest of us were treated to some very different and all delicious recipes.

After the mains were cleared away, out came the desserts. The monster apple pie from Brad Tyler-West and Manny Calisto almost didn't make it out of the box, but thanks to some gentle coaxing from Southerly Vernon, it proved to be the perfect complement to the great big cake that marked our national days, and also the fantastically shaped and truly tasty Aussie and Kiwi biscuits, courtesy of Margaret Munn.

We then tested our knowledge of our home countries with a very insightful quiz prepared by Brad Tyler-West (see p. 1). Quiz

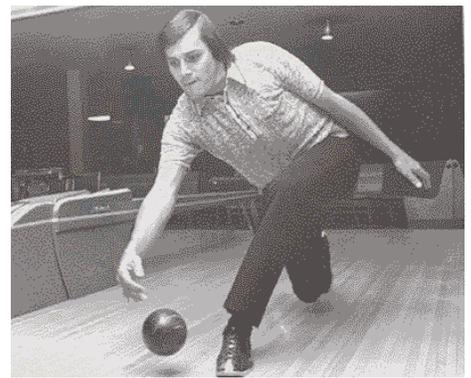
winners were Lynley Davidson, Jenny Gates, Tannis Hydesmith, and Judy Powell. (Jenny was taken aback by the fact that she appeared to know more about New Zealand than she did about Australia. Interesting!)

For those who stayed a bit longer, we enjoyed some great didgeridoo playing from Thibaut Lauwers – thank you, Thibaut! – and to some valiant attempts at didging from Southerly!

Huge thanks to Monica Black and Ian and Catherine Bowering, who generously donated prizes for our

winners. Thanks also to Judy and Charlie Powell for helping in the kitchen and the bar, and to Margaret Munn for bringing all the utensils and accessories and keeping the menu on track.

A few others had hoped to be there, but illness and changed plans got in the way. It was a fun night, and those of us at the event were sorry not have more of you to share the celebration of Australia Day and Waitangi Day. Perhaps bowling is more up your alley?!



What's up next ...

MARCH

***Friday March 16, 7:00 pm
5-pin Bingo Bowling***

Windsor Park Lanes, 678 Elizabeth

Going to be a great night out for bowling enthusiasts and non-bowlers alike. The game of 5-pin bowling is fun and fast – fabulous for all ages. Teams and individual players welcome. Bowling will be \$15.00 for adults and kids under 10 free. Includes 4 games of bowling, snack foods, and prizes. Contact Terry (663-6549) to reserve your spot.

Reminder about parking restrictions



Remember not to park in the Norampac parking lot at the corner of Wolever and Erin. The lot will now be monitored by Dr. Hook and cars will be towed. This is on a 24/7 basis.

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Open wide ... Matey is fed a live cricket. Photo: Dallas Kilponen.

It's just cricket

[Jan 16, 2012, SMH] After being extracted from a laundry pipe, Matey, a green tree frog, received the cuisine treatment by his new owner and rescue co-ordinator for FATS (Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW). Celebrating its 20th anniversary, FATS aims to protect and to increase awareness and appreciation of frogs, whose habitats everywhere are under attack. Matey is one of the lucky ones. Since being rescued, he lives with a caring family, despite the occasional inconvenience. "If someone accidentally sets off one of the frogs, they'll all join in. It can be very noisy in the middle of the night." Indeed!



Starring role for the clown prince of acting

[Jan 26, 2012, SMH] One might assume that Geoffrey Rush's trophy room would be a fairly impressive and comprehensive sight - and now

the abundantly talented thespian must make room for one more: Australian of the Year 2012. Rush's outstanding achievements in a lifetime career on the stage and screen and long-term commitment to the arts more than merited the honour. In his acceptance speech, Rush said the foundations of his profession were hard wired into all Australians. "We are natural at acting the goat, taking the mickey, playing the clown." This year Rush celebrates 40 years as a thespian and is in rare company, having won the "triple crown of acting" - Academy, Tony and Emmy awards.



Film director James Cameron. Photo: AFP

James Cameron buys Kiwi farms

[Feb 1, 2012, Wairarapa Times-Age] Wairarapa will soon be home to another Hollywood director after James Cameron bought two farms in the district. The *Avatar* and *Titanic* director plans to live on the South Wairarapa properties with his family. The Cameron family said they were "thrilled to be making a new home in New Zealand. We love the rugged landscape and the spirit of the people here, and are looking forward to becoming resident on our beautiful farm."



Photo: NZ Herald.

'Bio blitz' for new West Coast species

[Feb 1, 2012, NZ Herald] Some of the country's top scientists and scores of volunteers will crawl all over the West Coast's Denniston Plateau next month as part of a Forest and Bird 'bio blitz' to find new species and stop a large open-cast coal mine from going ahead. The proposed Escarpment mine would be capable of producing up to 2 million tonnes of coal a year, creating 250 jobs, and although consent was granted, it was "not without some considerable reservations

and anguish". It is now under appeal to the Environment Court. Denniston Plateau has 18 different ecosystems, and the giant snail *Powelliphanta patrickensis* is endemic there. By looking among shrubs, rocks and humus, in six-hour shifts, Forest and Bird hopes to find more. Good luck, people!



The Knox Church after February's earthquake. Photo: Paul Harper.

New plans to repair 131-year-old quake hit church

[Feb 3, 2012, NZ Herald] While building after building is torn down in Christchurch, plans are in place to ensure as much of a 131-year-old church is retained as possible. Knox Church on Bealey Avenue suffered major damage in the February 22 earthquake; however the building's wooden structure remained intact. "The basic idea is retain as much as we can of the surviving wood work, which is the pillars, the timber framing - the heritage side of the building, and then encase the whole thing in a seismically-safe structural envelope." The estimated cost is around \$3.5 million.



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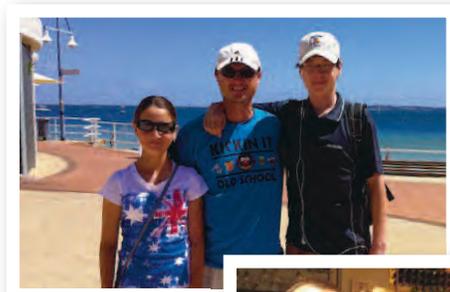
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HERE and THERE



L to r: Jess, Stuart and Josh. Right: Stuart and Carol.

Greetings from the Pavitts!

Carol's still enjoying her job with the WA Health Department,

but I think that it's more to do with the job being located in the port city of Fremantle. There are LOTS of cafés and restaurants (as well as a great market) in "Freo", which Carol likes to frequent during her lunch breaks.

For the first half of the year, I took over the reins of our Major Projects group in an acting role. Though I was unsuccessful in getting the permanent job, it was a good experience and we ended up with a program manager that I'll learn a lot from.

We now officially have no more kids in primary school and both are teenagers (Josh - 16, Jess 13). Josh is now taller than me, and has focused his sporting prowess on golf. He can drive the ball longer than me, 250+ metres.

Jess made the Under 13 Women's State Hockey Team (field hockey, that is), and then



made her way into the Under 15 Women's State Indoor Hockey team. She's busy training at the moment with the tournament scheduled to start in early January, right here in Perth.

Our little corner of Australia has been in almost drought conditions for the past 5 years. We were getting so short of water in our dams that even my company resorted to trucking in water to help sustain its production. We actually received some RAIN this winter season, which is a huge thing for us. The rain has now gone (in time for summer) so we're spending lots of time in the backyard with cold beers and a fired-up barbeque.

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying life... maybe one day we'll get to catch up in person again.



L to r: Kevin, Sam and Angie.

Moynes family in Oz!

When the Moynes family went to Australia in April 2011, they made a beeline to the top of the Harbor Bridge - the youngest members,

at least. "I was too chicken," confessed mum Sandy. Still, it was a fantastic way to celebrate Kevin and Angie's 24th and 21st birthdays, especially when sharing it with Kevin's fiancé, Sam Broten Pham.



Eddie Powell at breakfast

Back in December last year, Eddie Powell snapped a few photos from the Australia Canada Association breakfast at Adelaide's Bonython Park. According to Eddie, "One of the photos gives the backstory to the Totem Pole - no idea we had one here! Here's the proof." Thanks for sending these along, Eddie.



If you have any photos and updates you'd like to share with us, please email them with captions to info@downunderclub.mb.ca, or contact 228-9959.

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James and Miriam Sainsbury

Those who attended our formal dinner in November would have seen or talked to James and the very pregnant Miriam. Their photograph is on page 5 of the December 2011 *Yarn*.

James was born in Matamata, New Zealand, where he took his elementary schooling. He then went to Victoria University in Wellington where he earned a BSc and PhD in Genetics. He then worked and travelled in the UK for a year.

While in the UK he applied for a position at the University of Manitoba doing research into infectious diseases. He likes to travel and has been to Kenya, India, USA, Churchill (to see the polar bears), Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, Niagara Falls, Ottawa and western Canada.

Since arriving in Winnipeg, James has been back to NZ three times, twice with Miriam, with another trip planned in March – to show off their new daughter! He has tried curling and ice hockey, but does not contemplate turning pro in either.

Miriam Cohen-Krajden grew up in Toronto and took her undergraduate education there. She attended law school at the University of Manitoba and was admitted to the Bar in 2008. Miriam chose Winnipeg because the people are friendly! (Guess our licence plates *are* right.) She works at Troniak Law Office where a large part of their practice is dealing with residential school survivors.

James was staying at a shared house in Winnipeg, and one night was invited to a dinner party. Miriam was also a guest at the party, and when James showed up with a pavlova, she instantly felt that anyone who could cook was okay with her!

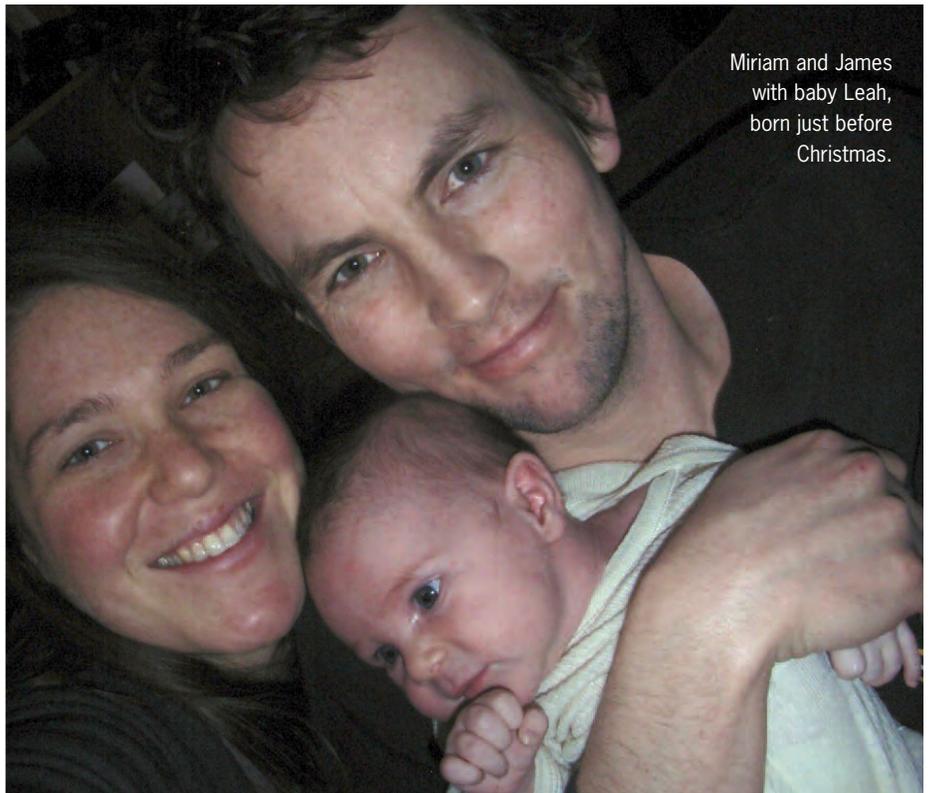
They were married here in June 2010, with another ceremony in NZ that December.

Daughter Leah was born December 14, 2011, and is gurgling quite nicely. (At least she was when I was doing this interview.)

The Sainsburys found out about the DUCW on the internet and joined last year.

Welcome to Winnipeg, James and Miriam. And welcome to the world, Leah! We are really looking forward to meeting you soon.

Gordon Keatch



Miriam and James
with baby Leah,
born just before
Christmas.

Help us get to know you!

Thanks to Gordon Keatch, this column has introduced us more thoroughly to many of our DUCW members. If you would like us to get to know you a bit better, or if you have a suggestion of another member we have not yet profiled, please contact Gordon at 832-4405.

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Journalists damn impunity of states' censoring bullies

Commonwealth journalists, meeting this month in Malta for their triennial conference, roundly condemned continued state repression of media people, and especially the impunity extended to perpetrators of such intimidating violence and death. In Pakistan alone last year more than 20 writers were killed.

The censure was especially directed at state, corporate, ethnic and criminal entities. Cited particularly, besides Pakistan, were instances in Sri Lanka, the Gambia, Uganda and Nigeria.

The Commonwealth Journalists Association's 68 delegates also unanimously adopted the WAN-IFRA Table Mountain Declaration (2007) against state curtailment of media rights. With this came support for the efforts being made to eliminate the widely discredited perpetuation of criminal libel laws, which are too often used to intimidate critics of government.

CJA members also debated the positives and negatives of the Commonwealth's two-year-old decision to hold CHOGM in Sri Lanka next year. Some felt the nation's appalling rights record warranted boycott. Others thought more would be accomplished by being present and making an open case for transparency and human rights reform by airing them in public forums with international media in attendance.

The CJA further asked that Commonwealth member states and associated civil society bodies embrace the lead of the Eminent Persons Group's report of last year, and renew and strengthen the organization – perhaps even suspend or slash a membership or two – to ensure the 54-state body becomes a more meaningful global voice in the 21st century.

King of Swaziland's mean streak stirs ire of angry subjects

The king of Swaziland is not playing nice,

and the blush of royal adoration is fading.

Mswati, one of the last absolute monarchs in the world and the sole example of the breed in Africa, is in the midst of a nasty quarrel with about 300 of his subjects who have taken him to court for redress against eviction. It started after the bulldozing of the homes of 18 families that were within the view of the king's new lavish palace at KaShan.

The toy kingdom, 200 kilometres long, north to south, and 130 kilometres wide, is landlocked in the dark continent by Mozambique and South Africa. Its quirky traditions (especially the choosing of royal brides from a gathering of near-naked teen candidates) were legendary. Those days of reverence, even love for its kings, are fading.

Its status as a kingdom was sanctified by the British as a protectorate in the 19th century and granted independence in 1968. It has advanced as a Commonwealth democracy in name but under absolute rules of its kings, none highly enlightened on the issue of democratic administration.

In this recent home-wrecking case, Mswati's subjects were not to be intimidated. The era of deference to absolute rule is on its way out in Swaziland. Monarchy's financial mismanagement has spawned a financial crisis in the kingdom and the populous is feeling it, and reacting with impatience.

Authoritarian dictates prohibiting lawsuits by Swazi citizens against corporations in which the king held shares were overruled by the Supreme Court. Brutal harassment, surveillance and police intimidation didn't work either. Rather it generated public pushback: a boycott by the 180 members of the law society. Some were thrown in prison. But the king's government had to back down, conscious that the next step could be a Southern African Spring.

Canadian weighs what's due NZ man wrongly jailed in death of 5 family

A Dunedin man, David Bain, who was convicted in a 1995 high-profile case for the shooting of five members of his family in 1994 and then acquitted in a retrial in 2009, stands to receive nearly \$2 million if the

Canadian judge appointed to consider his compensation bid finds in his favour.

And the judge who will make the decision is Ian Binnie a retired member of the Canadian Supreme Court after 13 years and former associate deputy minister of justice from 1982-86.

NZ Justice Minister Simon Power appointed Mr Justice Binnie to assess Bain's compensation claim for wrongful conviction and imprisonment. Under guidelines set by cabinet, he could be entitled to three different kinds of compensation:

- For loss of liberty and emotional harm, based on a starting figure of \$100,000 for each year in custody.

- Recompense for loss of livelihood and future earnings.

- A public apology or statement of innocence.

The theory is Bain could have made about \$40,000 a year on average during his 13 years in jail. To secure this, he will have to establish that it is more probable he is innocent than guilty. He will also have to show "extraordinary" circumstances.

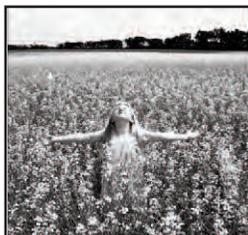
Canada has a compensation regime similar to the one in NZ.

In 2007, the Privy Council quashed Bain's conviction on the grounds of a substantial miscarriage of justice and ordered the retrial in Christchurch where a jury found him not guilty.

Justice Binnie will begin work on the case before the end of the year. The officer in charge of the re-trial, Detective Inspector Ross Pinkham, said police would be available to help. "The police staff involved in the investigation since 1994 have a wide understanding of the issues involved in the case," Pinkham said.

[Some material sourced from news distributors throughout the Commonwealth]

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president and honorary secretary-treasurer of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; Honorary lieutenant colonel of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



Shannon Mann Photography

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remember

members of our club

Larkins, here and there

Good evening from Canada. I'm not sure if Qantas has an "in house" website or an "in-house" publication for its personnel, but I have an interesting story for you.

You have a new first officer on one of your 717s who lives in Darwin, NT. Sean Larkin, formerly of Care Flight in Darwin, began his flying journey at the age of 13 on the west coast of Canada along with his father, Tom Larkin in 1997. Sean's grandfather, Tom Larkin, Sr., was an airline agent for Bear Skin Airways in northern Ontario.

At the age of 18, Sean's dad, a flight instructor, taught Sean his Canadian Commercial Pilot licence. Sean then went on to fly Navajos for various charter operations, a King Air 200 for an air ambulance company in northern Ontario, and Dash 8 for the United Nations in the Congo, before returning to the King Air 200 for air ambulance operations in Darwin, NT.

Last year he married his fiancé Sheree, who is from Adelaide.

We have recently learned that there is a Larkin Ave near the Darwin International Airport. Inquiry with the City of Darwin reveals the following information about Larkin Avenue — History/Origin: Named after H Larkin who founded Australian Aerial Services Ltd which operated between Camooweal (Qld) and Daly Waters in the 1930s.

It truly is an interesting coincidence that one of Australia's newest Larkins, from Canada, would be flying for Australia's premier air carrier and based out of an airport where a namesake was an aviation pioneer. Not only does aviation appear to be in the Larkin blood, it also seems to transcend continents. What a wonderful connection for one of Qantas' newest pilots.

Submitted for your interest and enjoyment. Tom. P.A. Larkin, (Dad) Springfield RM, Manitoba

bottomfivesites

some favourite links to follow

www.youtube.com/watch?v=tma8_QELjIM — Shagra the horse ... a wonderful story!

tomydog.tumblr.com/ — what you might say to your dog

www.nfb.ca/channels/digital_boutique — the very best of the National Film Board

lifestacker.com/5861176/five-best-online-file-storage-services — in case you need to store something

bookflavor.com/ — so much to read, so little time

funnybusiness

down under humour - courtesy Lou Savinsky

Places I have been

[courtesy Lou Savinsky and Helene DeKezel]

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

And, sometimes I think I am in Vincible but life shows me I am not!

I have been in Deepsh#!& many times; the older I get, the easier it is to get there.

Answer key for DUCW 2012 Quiz

1. OZ – 22,328,800 / NZ – 4,367,800
2. OZ – Jørn Utzon (Denmark) / NZ – The Bee Hive – Sir Basil Spence (New Zealand)
3. OZ – Mt Warning, NSW / NZ – Gisborne, NZ
4. OZ – Agriculture (beef, wool, wheat) / NZ – agriculture (beef, lamb, wool)
5. OZ – Mining, tourism / NZ – mining, tourism
6. OZ – 3:1 / NZ – 7:1
7. OZ – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide / NZ – Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton, Napier-Hastings
8. OZ – the big Mango / NZ – Hobbiton Forest
9. OZ – Corrong Beach, 222 km long / NZ – Waikato 425 km long
10. OZ – Olivia Newton-John / NZ – Rachel Hunter
11. As for your favourite Aussie/Kiwi food or sweet, please let us know so we can all savour the memory with you!

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The electronic version of this newsletter typically contains extra pages of content (in colour!), and can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services.

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THE DOWN UNDER
CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

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The Southern Yarn

March 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

March

downundercalendar
2012

details on page 3

MARCH

Friday March 16, 7:00 pm
5-pin Bingo Bowling

Windsor Park Lanes, 678 Elizabeth Rd

Going to be a great night out for bowling enthusiasts and non-bowlers alike. The game of 5-pin bowling is fun and fast — fabulous for all ages. Teams and individual players welcome. Bowling will be \$15.00 for adults, kids under 10 free, and includes 4 games of bowling, snack foods, and prizes. Contact Terry (663-6549) to reserve your spot.

APRIL

ANZAC Day

Saturday April 28, 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**. You can help make this a wonderful event by coming along and being part of the service and the fun to follow! More details on page 3.

RSVP

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



Join us on FACEBOOK

We now have 54 friends in our Facebook group. Join us today and get extra news and timely reminders of events and activities. www.facebook.com/pages/Down-Under-Club-of-Winnipeg/115975501754598



Our web site has stood the test of time for more than a decade and our Facebook page grows daily. You ain't seen nothing yet.

Change is in the air!

You know the expression “same old same old”? It has a certain comfort to it, an underlying implication that things are the same and we don't have to worry about or adapt to any change.

However, there are times when change is important, indeed even necessary, and that time has come.

You may have noticed while reading *The Southern Yarn* that we now have a Facebook page – another way for us to connect with you, our members. We already have 54 fans, most of whom are members of the Club, but there are also a few from various locations around the world. Who knew?! Certainly, we'd like more of you to “like” us, so if you are on Facebook, why not get on board – www.facebook.com/pages/Down-Under-Club-of-Winnipeg/115975501754598.

We've also been working on designing a new website. The current one – www.downunderclub.mb.ca – has been great, and is stacked with a lot of fun and important information. But it's become a challenge to maintain and update, and has more info that we actually need.

So, a new design is in the works, one that will be more accessible to more people and will take things up a notch. A better layout, more professional, with opportunities for visitors and our advertisers, and much easier to keep current.

It will take some time to get going, but look for it in July this year.

We're also taking steps to better serve our wonderful advertisers. Inconsistencies with respect to sizing and charging have crept into the mix, and we are taking steps to correct that and give all of them a fairer and better deal. Hopefully, that will encourage them to continue to support us, and allow us to provide more access to them down the line.

A few other changes are in the works, all with the goal of helping keep the “same old same old” with respect to the connection we have with you, our members.

In the meantime, if you think of anything we can do to make membership even better for you, please let us know and we'll consider your suggestions along with all the other things we have in mind.

We love having you as part of the Club, and while there are some who don't get the chance to attend meetings, don't have computers (so no website, Facebook or email access), or stay connected only through our monthly newsletter, we want to continue to do whatever we can for all of you.

Yes, change is happening, so enjoy the spring melt, and stay tuned for more!

the down under club of winnipeg inc.
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editorially yours

Jenny Gates



Word has it that several of our members are either heading south in the next month or so, or are already travelling here, there and everywhere. Hope your adventures have been / are all you hoped for!

As for the rest of us, there are plenty of events coming up to keep us all occupied and distracted from the quickly disappearing slush. Be sure to check out page 3 for all the details of our upcoming events.

This issue of *The Southern Yarn* also has lots of great reading, so find a sunny corner in your yard or home and catch up on all the news.

Be sure to read about some of the impending changes in the Club (p. 1) and heed the heartfelt words from our president (p. 2). We have an update on goings on down under (p. 4), and an opportunity to test your skills in a new feature, created for our enjoyment by president Terry Roberts (p. 5).

We also get to meet long-time members Mona and Bill Blackburn (p. 6) and to hear about some of the ups and downs in the Commonwealth (p. 7).

And for those who enjoy culinary recommendations, be sure to check out the review of a decidedly down under dish made right here in Manitoba (p. 8).

It's been great the last two issues to have so many submissions from Club members. Keep them coming – they provide a much-appreciated complement to the usual monthly offerings.

Now, go find that sunny corner, and enjoy the read!

Newsletter in July

This is the chance you've all been waiting for! Given the impending travel plans of our newsletter editor, we are looking for someone who might be interested in preparing an issue of *The Southern Yarn* in July. The issues needs to be compiled by the 7th of the month, and you would be required to liaise with our designer, Brian Hydesmith, in order to get the issue out. If you are interested, please contact Jenny at 228-9959.

Another month has rolled around and the weather is getting warmer by the day. Baseball's spring training is well under way and the Nascar Sprint Cup series has been in progress for the last three weeks – all signs of spring being in the air with summer just around the corner.

Some of the upcoming events to watch for this spring include Bingo Bowling on Friday March 16, and ANZAC day on Saturday April 28. And this summer, you will have the opportunity to enjoy another exciting behind-the-scenes Zoo visit, a golf tournament, a club pool party, and other events.

We are still looking for a social coordinator to help organise new events and coordinate events organized by others in the Club. Anyone interested should contact one of the board members for more details. It's a lot of fun and you get to meet Club members in a social setting.



president's ramblings

Terry Roberts

The Board members invite you all out to enjoy everything the Club has to offer in the way of social events because this is what the Club is here for – a way for people to meet and exchange ideas and have fun. Without your input and involvement, the Club is not doing what it was originally intended to do when it was formed.

So, please come out, get involved, and get the most out of what the Club has to offer.

See you at the next event!

Daylight Saving here and there



As you probably noticed here last Sunday, we moved into daylight saving – our clocks went forward an hour. Meanwhile, on APRIL 1, Australia and New Zealand are going out of daylight saving – their clocks go back an hour. Be sure to check with family and friends BEFORE you call them to say hi, just in case you interrupt their sleep in.

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What's up next ...

MARCH

Friday March 16, 7:00 pm
5-pin Bingo Bowling

Windsor Park Lanes, 678 Elizabeth

Going to be a great night out for bowling enthusiasts and non-bowlers alike. The game of 5-pin bowling is fun and fast – fabulous for all ages. Teams and individual players welcome. Bowling will be \$15.00 for adults and kids under 10 free. Includes 4 games of bowling, snack foods, prizes. Contact Terry (663-6549) to reserve your spot.



News Café on McDermot. Photo: www.businessopportunities.biz.

Wine Enthusiasts

The Winnipeg Free Press and International Cellars Inc. are presenting a Down Under Wine Experience. Hosted by Doug Speirs, the event will be held on Friday March 23 at 7:00 pm, 237 McDermot Ave. Tickets are \$50 - available at the WFP News Café, or by calling Amber at 697-7069. This is a great opportunity to experience the six flight wine and tasting menu, and perhaps even win one of the door prizes.

APRIL

Saturday April 28, 6:00 pm
ANZAC Day
Potluck Dinner

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Come along and commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service, singing of our national anthems, and a delicious potluck dinner. Please make sure you bring along enough for yourselves and a bit extra for our veterans and other guests. You can help make this a wonderful event by coming along and being part of the service and the fun to follow. **NOTE:** We will need a few hands on deck to help in the kitchen, so please arrive a bit earlier if you are willing to lend a hand or two.



Her Majesty. Photo: www.thisisjersey.com

Queen's Message for Commonwealth Day

[Courtesy Colin Reichle, National Chairman, Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada] One of the great benefits of today's technology-based world is the range of opportunities it offers to understand and appreciate how others live: we can see, hear and enter into the experience of people in communities and circumstances far removed from our own.

A remarkable insight we gain from such windows on the world is that, however different outward appearances may be, we share a great deal in common. Our circumstances and surroundings may vary enormously, for example in the food we eat and the clothes we wear, but we share one humanity, and this draws us all together. The joys of celebration and sympathy of sadness may be expressed differently but they are felt in the same way the world over.

How we express our identities reveals both a rich diversity and many common threads. Through the creative genius of artists – whether they be writers, actors, film-makers, dancers or musicians – we can see both the range of our cultures and the

elements of our shared humanity.

“Connecting Cultures”, our Commonwealth theme this year, encourages us to consider the special opportunities we have, as members of this unique gathering of nations, to celebrate an extraordinary cultural tapestry that reflects our many individual and collective identities. The Commonwealth treasures and respects this wealth of diversity.

Connecting cultures is more, however, than observing others and the ways in which they express themselves. This year, our Commonwealth focus seeks to explore how we can share and strengthen the bond of Commonwealth citizenship we already enjoy by using our cultural connections to help bring us even closer together, as family and friends across the globe.

To support this theme, a special song has been composed for the Commonwealth, ‘Stronger as One’. There are any number of ways in which that single piece of music alone can be played or sung anywhere in the Commonwealth. And by sharing the same music with our own personal interpretations and contributions, the wonderful human attribute of imagination is nourished, and we gain insights of understanding and appreciation of others.

The Commonwealth offers a pathway for this greater understanding and the opportunity to expand upon our shared experiences in a wider world. A world in which paths to mutual respect and common cause may also be explored and which can draw us together, stronger and better than before.

Elizabeth R

Savour our new brunch menu



What better way to enjoy the weekend than with a delicious brunch! Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We have introduced the Aussie Breakfast Pizza and our Lobster Omelette to the menu, and you can still get all your old favourites.

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Australian study to tackle teenage obesity

[Mar 1, 2012, www.ausfoodnews.com.au, courtesy Charlie Powell] An Australian-first obesity study will use the internet and mobile technology to try and help teenagers lose weight. Participants aged 12 to 17 recruited from across Melbourne will have their height, weight, blood pressure and waist circumference measured when they join the study, and then after three, six and 12 months. The programs will teach them ways to manage nutrition, exercise, weight, and to improve body image.



In case you missed it ...

[Mar 3, 2012] Julia Gillard was voted in to remain as Australia's prime minister by her own party, and then promptly announced her new cabinet. One of the main changes was former NSW premier Bob Carr who came to Canberra to take on the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs after Kevin Rudd's retirement and force to the backbench. The challenge now is to stem the haemorrhaging of members, and counter polls that indicate Labor is a party on track to lose power both federally and in yet another state election in Queensland.

ANZAC biscuits manufacturer insolvent

[Mar 2, 2012] Unibic, the maker of Australia's iconic ANZAC biscuits, has been placed in voluntary administration. Production of biscuits at Unibic's Broadmeadows plant has come to a stop, potentially endangering the jobs of 170 people in



Melbourne. Unibic has been producing biscuits, cakes and pastries since the 1950s, and the ANZAC biscuit is an Australian household name. The company also makes a wide variety of biscuits including home-brand ranges and is Australia's fourth biggest biscuits manufacturer.



"Please dear, dear Sydney, just keep the rain away while we party" ... Kylie Minogue.

Kylie the Mardi star

[Mar 4, 2012] Although she did not get her wish, Kylie Minogue was thrilled to be the star attraction at Sydney's Mardi Gras this year. "Personally, I'm excited to see the parade and feel the spirit of the city and the people, and to be part of that is a beautiful thing." In the midst of K25, the year-long celebration of her career to date, Minogue took time out to be part of the event, after which she will step back from such camp spectacles and present her music in a more stripped-back setting as part of the ongoing K25 celebrations.

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Bret McKenzie at the 84th Academy Awards. Photo: AP.

Bret McKenzie 'terrified' during Oscars

[Feb 28, 2012] Bret McKenzie plans to put his Oscar on top of his piano - although he might use the award to get into a few bars first. The New Zealander won the best original song at the Academy Awards for his song Man or



Muppet, in *The Muppets* movie. Perhaps better known from *The Flight of the Conchords*, McKenzie told Radio New Zealand he was terrified during the award's show, and added that his two young children were "pretty impressed" with the Oscar statue. "I've got a two-year-old and a one-year-old. The one-year-old, all he got to do was wear a tuxedo t-shirt, and the two-year-old, she now has some shoes she calls her Oscar shoes."



Mussels pack powerful punch. Photo: NZ Herald.

NZ's green-lipped 'super food'

[Mar 5, 2012] New Zealand's world-famous green-lipped mussels have again been hailed as a new "super food", which can now be used to ease arthritis pain. A new scientific trial found that more than half of all patients who took the freeze-dried mussel powder, produced by a Christchurch family firm, had knee joint pain "significantly reduced". "We believe green-lipped mussel extract is the next super food. It not only helps with arthritis pain but also supports gut health and may act as a pre-biotic, lowering bacteria levels in the gut."

Scientists complete West Coast 'bio blitz'

[Mar 5, 2012] About 150 scientists scoured Denniston Plateau at the weekend in the dead of night, and during a storm, to find new species that could help derail plans to mine the plateau by Perth-based Bathurst Resources. As a result of the blitz, it is believed they have discovered several previously unknown species of moth, cicada, and possibly even a snail and a gecko. The new finds would be part of the court case against the proposed Escarpment Mine, which is under appeal to the Environment Court. "It's a natural sanctuary, almost a lost world."

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- Alexandra
- Auroa
- Blenheim
- Drury
- Dunedin
- Edendale
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Mona and Bill Blackburn

When I first spoke to Mona about doing an article for this column, she was hesitant, explaining that she doesn't get to many of our activities, but she does enjoy reading the *Yarn*.

Responding to my question as to her connection with down under, she said she was born there. Right away I knew we had a story, so here it is.

Mona Payton was born in Goodooga in northern NSW, near the Queensland border. Her father was a stockman, and when Mona was aged five, they moved to Bourke where she finished grade school. She then attended Dubbo Base Hospital and became a registered nurse. Later, she took midwifery at Paddington Hospital in Sydney, and nursed for several years in rural areas.

In 1967, Mona came to Canada to visit her sister in the Manitoba town of Crystal City - and stayed. She did nursing in Pilot Mound and took a short interim position in Geraldton, Ontario, before returning to Crystal City. She was then appointed head nurse at Prairie View Lodge in Pilot Mound where, in 1981, they opened a 24-bed personal care home. She retired in 1993 and still lives in Pilot Mound.

In 1970, she and Bill were married. He is a native of Pilot Mound and was a carpenter, but now also retired. They go back to Oz every three or four years and were there last year.

They are both involved in the community. Bill is an ordained minister in the Anglican Church, and Mona is a deacon. They do a bit of cross-country skiing and Mona used to spin wool and crochet.

Mona learned about the DUCW through fellow DUCW member Pam Devos in Bruxelles and joined seven years ago.

Though it's about a 2½ hour drive to Winnipeg, hopefully they'll make it to one of our events soon. Of course, they are both always welcome!

Gordon Keatch



Frank, centre, with Auntie Nora and Uncle Mike.

Down Under Connection

A recent contact with Frank Unger, Vice President of the German Society of Winnipeg, revealed his connection with Australia, specifically NSW. His aunt and uncle live in Budgewoi, and his cousin's family live in Wangi Wangi. "Yes I have been to Australia - twice! - and I still miss my sunburn at Christmas time the last time I was there. The only Christmas I have ever spent without freezing my (take your pick in words). The sunburn reminds me of the non freezing. I will have to come and party with you when you have a function. Frank (Franz)" We have already let Frank know about our ANZAC Day event.

Help us get to know you!

Thanks to Gordon Keatch, this column has introduced us more thoroughly to many of our DUCW members. If you would like us to get to know you a bit better, or if you have a suggestion of another member we have not yet profiled, please contact Gordon at 832-4405.

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Surprises, joys in southern climes travel

Riverton, NZ - Four of us from Winnipeg put in a four-week auto tour of New Zealand in February and March. It ranged from Pahia and Russell in the north, to the Muttonbird Islands of Stewart Island in the South.

For our companions, Bob and Audrey Vandewater, everything has a new look and much needs explanation. For my wife Betsy and me, who have been to this Commonwealth many times, change is at once surprising, delightful and alarming. But the unchanged also has its special joys.

Let's take alarming first. We have never seen so many cattle pastured on NZ's verdant slopes. Thousands of sheep have been displaced by thousands of cattle. The reason? Big business. The international company, Fonterra, has contracted for the produce of huge acreages, built giant dairies, and is making huge money (and taxes revenue) selling milk powder to the Chinese market. The worry, aside from the environmental one, is what happens if this market fades. There's an eggs-in-one-basket message here.

What about surprises? First is the high price of very large, very good quality meals. Not much left of \$50 when two of you leave a lunch table. No one's complaining though.

There has also been a noticeable "browning" of the Kiwi populace. That is, many of the Pacific's island and rim races are making NZ home. No longer homogeneously white, as in my mid-20th century childhood, it is a pleasant and varied-looking tan integration - a good thing, I think.

A big joy, I understand, is fairly new. Kiwis love their oysters, but availability is restrained by a season, the harvest in Foveaux Strait being too short to serve demand. Enterprise has bested that, and some bright sparks have successfully bred oysters. The product, which will so easily match the wild catch, is excellent. They take two years to develop (versus seven in the wild), available much larger (or smaller) by demand, taste as good, and, never consid-

ered before, lack the heavy dose of cadmium of wild Bluff oysters raised from the ocean's sandy bottom.

Of course, grimmest news of the holiday was that Otago's famous Rugby Football Union team had gone broke and was to be abandoned. This just as Dunedin, its home base, had completed a brilliant and massively roofed and closed-in stadium. Hope still holds high that 130 years of ruggie history cannot die for the tawdriness of missing a few shekels.

World's largest rodent kill

One of the Commonwealth's smallest and most remote British land entities is again engaging in a war. This time, South Georgia, in the South Atlantic, one of the first territories taken by the Argentines (and lost in the 1980s Falklands War), is waging a war on rats.

It is billed as the world's largest rodent cull, costing £250,000. The aim is to try to wipe out an infestation that is threatening to destroy what used to be the territory of one of the richest arrays of bird life.

There were originally about 80 species, 30 of which bred there mainly on the ground or cliffs. But rats escaping from 19th century whaling ships became acclimatized, bloomed, and targeted the birds, nestlings and eggs for food. To reverse and save the situation, helicopters are being lined up to dump tons of rat poison on this wild, frozen, mountainous island, large parts of which are entirely bereft of bird life and song.

The lady remains the boss

The Australians seem to have sorted out their prime ministerial problem.

Former PM (and latterly foreign minister), the ambitious Kevin Rudd's effort to regain the top job has failed. In a vote show-down of party members in government, Julia Gillard, who had unseated Rudd in his term, retained the first minister's job by a handy 70% plurality. It was an unseemly challenge when the Labor Party is under national challenge for much-needed tough policies.

Rudd accepted his defeat graciously and moved to the back benches. He is a clever man, master of Mandarin, but not renowned as a team player. It was unclear how Gillard



Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard with former NSW Premier Bob Carr. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

would regard the members who voted for him.

But the worst is over for now, although that little contretemps may be a factor that sees neither Gillard nor Rudd heading government in the next election - and that's a basis for concern.

End of Public Emergency Regulations in Fiji welcomed

The International Federation of Journalists cautiously welcomed the New Year's Day declaration by Fiji's authorities that the country's Public Emergency Regulations were to be lifted.

Commodore Frank Bainimarama said in his New Year's message that the regulations, in place since April 2009, will be removed to allow preparations for the drafting of a new national constitution.

Under the regulations, the regime and its authorities decide what is fair, balanced and quality journalism. Bainimarama's decree allowed officers authorized by a government-appointed media authority and tribunal to enter newsrooms and media offices to seize any documentation, materials or equipment on the basis of vaguely defined complaints, or even where no formal complaint has been laid.

Thousands of news reports have been censored by the tribunal since the regulations were introduced. Self-censorship is also widespread in Fiji as a result of the laws.

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president and honorary secretary-treasurer of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; Honorary lieutenant colonel of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



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A Tale of Two “Hamburgers with the Lot”

A. Non Ymous

While most of us cannot easily recall the events of a month ago, we can remember the best moments of our young and single days.

For me, quite a lot of those days ended with heading off for a midnight snack to the hamburger stand along Heidelberg Rd in Alphington, Melbourne, always after midnight, and often with the sun breaking over the horizon. It was always open, and the aroma of fried onions called me there too many times to remember. In my opinion, they made the best “Hamburger with the Lot” (HWTL) in my part of the world.

The HWTL is a downunder dish, generally consisting of a beef patty in a bun, loaded with lettuce and tomato, bacon, relish/tomato sauce, fried onion, grilled pineapple ring, fried egg, cheese and, the piece de la resistance, a slice of beetroot.

Neither my wife nor I can recall, in all our travels, ever seeing a HWTL advertised anywhere, even in Kathmandu, where Sloppy Joes, Kraft Dinner, and other specials were available for travellers. So it was great when The Billabong restaurant, owned by long-standing DUCW members, Erin and Peter Keating and Owen Degen, added the HWTL to their menu some time ago.

And recently, in Osborne Street Village, just around the corner from The Billabong, a new restaurant opened, called Unburger, advertising healthy gourmet burgers. On their menu is “The Drunken Aussie”, a HWTL, inspired by the owner’s year-long sojourn in Australia.

So in the interests of objective journalism only, we tried each version that Unburger and The Billabong offered of the HWTL.

The first one tried was at Unburger. They offer a choice of bun, and I went with their less healthy option, the regular bun. The patty was big and juicy, tasty, just right. Included was a beetroot slice, bacon, grilled

pineapple, tasty Bothwell cheese, and the fried egg (Omega-3) was done to a “t”. I almost had to remove my teeth to fit it in my mouth. (Tricky without dentures.)

Overall taste experience was A1, just like I remember. My wife had a bacon/cheddar burger, and with a pile of fries and two drinks, the bill was \$27.00 – great value for the taste experience.

A week later, we visited The Billabong. It was like hitting the jackpot two weeks in a row. I had the “Original Aussie Burger”, advertised as a juicy sirloin burger topped with smoky bacon, fried egg, BBQ pineapple, aged cheddar cheese, and hot pepper beet relish. It also came with lettuce, onion, tomato and dill pickle. The traditional beetroot slice is replaced by the beet relish.

The taste experience once again was really good, and you do have to acquire the knack of getting all the contents into you, not onto you. Pricing with fries included is very similar to Unburger.

In summary, both hamburgers were REALLY, REALLY good. I am looking forward to my next trip to the Village to try both hamburgers again. Go to each restaurant yourself, and make your own decision on the merits of each of Winnipeg’s best HWTL.

Coincidentally, the *Melbourne Age* had a feature this week on HWTL available in Melbourne. Follow this link to read for yourself how Winnipeg compares: www.theage.com.au/entertainment/restaurants-and-bars/burger-we-wrote-20120303-1u960.html

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The Southern Yarn

April 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

April

downundercalendar
2012

details on page 3

APRIL

• ANZAC Day

• POTLUCK Dinner

• Saturday April 28, 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. You can help make this a wonderful event by coming along and being part of the service and the fun to follow!

RSVP

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



Join fellow DUCW members as we recognize those who gave their efforts for our collective future.

Time to remember

ANZAC Day is our opportunity to remember those we have loved and lost during war and who fought for our freedom and peace in our times. Please make a point to join us on **Saturday April 28 at 6:00 pm** as we commemorate ANZAC Day here in Winnipeg. Friends and family are welcome. This is a POTLUCK event, so be sure to bring enough for yourselves and a bit extra. More details on page 3.

Did you know ...

ANZAC Day marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during World War I.

The acronym ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, whose soldiers were known as ANZACs.

ANZAC Day is one of the most important national occasions of both Australia and New Zealand.

In 1915, Australian and New Zealander soldiers formed part of an Allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The ANZAC force landed at Gallipoli on April 25, and the campaign dragged on for eight months.

More than 8,700 Australian and 2,721 New Zealand lives were lost.

Though the Gallipoli campaign failed to

achieve its military objectives, the actions of the Australian and New Zealander troops during the campaign bequeathed an intangible but powerful legacy.

The creation of what became known as an "ANZAC legend" became an important part of the national identity in both countries, and shaped the way their citizens have viewed both their past and their understanding of the present.

After World War I, returned soldiers sought the comradeship they felt in the quiet, peaceful moments before dawn. The first official dawn service was held at the Sydney Cenotaph in 1927.

ANZAC Day promotes a sense of unity, where people of all politics, beliefs and aspirations can share a genuine sorrow at the loss of so many lives in war.

ANZAC Day is also marked in Canada, Thailand, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, England, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, United States, and Ireland.

As former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said, the Gallipoli campaign is "part of our national consciousness, it's part of our national psyche, it's part of our national identity."

And so say all of us!

Source: Wikipedia



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editorially yours

Jenny Gates



Did you have a go at Terry's word search quiz in the March *Yarn*? Any luck figuring out the President's hometown? The good news is that Terry has offered to send us another quiz down the line, so stay tuned for that.

And did you read the tale of two hamburgers with the lot? I'm looking forward to trying both in the next little while. In the meantime, watch out for a write up on The Billabong later this month in the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

As always, you are invited to submit photos, articles, write ups, reports, reviews – in fact, pretty much anything you like – for submission in our monthly issues. All contributions are subject to approval, but we're confident you know what's appropriate for *The Southern Yarn*.

This month, we have some great stuff to keep you up to date.

There is a report on the recent bowling and the upcoming ANZAC Day event on page 3, as well as in Terry's president's message



(opposite). We are back with two full pages of news from down under (pp. 4 and 5), and we have the opportunity to meet Leigh Murphy and son Patrick (p. 6).

Page 7 contains all the latest on the Commonwealth, and page 8 has some interesting ideas for beer fans.

Remember to support our advertisers when you can, and let them know how much we appreciate their support of our club and our newsletter.

And enjoy the spring as it greens our lawns, buds our trees, and fills our gardens with colour and life.

It's tax time again and this year I have left it a bit late (for me anyway). Since I am in the process of doing them now, I will be short and sweet in my report.

Everyone who came to the bingo bowl enjoyed themselves immensely. We had four games of glow bowling, which, at times, were very interesting to watch. Prizes (T-shirts) were given to the winning teams of each segment. The snacks were filling, and to top it all off, we had a 50/50 draw and a door prize. There were 40 participants, with ages ranging from 8 to 80 – okay, not quite 80 and maybe a little shy of 8). The main thing is everyone enjoyed themselves.

I hope everyone has pencilled in



president's ramblings

Terry Roberts

still looking for someone to step up and join the Board in the social coordinator's shoes. Don't be shy – it's fun!

ANZAC Day on their calendar and is going to attend on **Saturday April 28** at 6:00 pm at the Scandinavian Club on Erin St. It's the time of the year we remember the roots of the DUCW and thank those who served for our respective countries to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

By the way, we are



Get outta town! You really need to escape the city to appreciate the splendour of the seasons here in Manitoba. Dramatic spring ice formations on Clear Lake and glassy frozen marshes, both in Riding Mountain National Park, attracted the Hydesmith family two weekends before Easter.

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What happened ...

Bingo Bowling

What a great night at Windsor Park Lanes last month. We had a full house, with almost every lane taken up by DUCW members and their friends and family. Some of the usual bowlers were there, and it was wonderful to see new members, including our newest (and returning) members, the Hinrichsen family. I was on their team, and wow, what great technique, especially from Kaitlyn and Luke. Four games produced four winning teams, who then took their pick of the prizes on offer. Thanks to Terry and Kerry for organising the event, the prizes and the eats. And thanks to the staff at Windsor Park Lanes for being our hosts – again.

PS Clearly we need a social coordinator to keep better track of these things, but to the best of our collective reckoning, the winners were Margaret and Peter Munn (on two separate teams), their friends on another team, and one more team whose names we did not record.

What's up next ...

ANZAC Day

POTLUCK Dinner

Saturday April 28, 6:00 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service and singing of our national anthems. The formal part of the evening will be followed by a delicious potluck dinner. Please remember to bring enough for yourselves and a bit extra for our veterans. You can help make this a wonderful event by coming along and being part of the service and the fun to follow!

*They shall grow not old,
as we who are left to grow old.*

*Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.*

*In the going down of the sun
and in the morning,*

We will remember them.

'For the Fallen'
by Laurence Binyon

Socially challenged

In lieu of a Social Coordinator, the Board is doing its best to organise events during the summer. No dates are confirmed as yet, but we are looking forward to some great possibilities.



A plan is in the works to have another "Behind the Scenes Look at the Assiniboine Zoo". This was a great event last year, and Zoo Director and DUCW member Tim Sinclair-Smith is keen to hold another one. Lynley Davidson is organising this, so stayed tuned.

Weather cooperation will be required for another possible event – a pool party. Been a while since we had one of those, so this could be very exciting. Location to be confirmed, but all will be revealed when everything is organised.

If you have other events you would like to suggest, or better yet, that you would be willing to organise, simply email us at social@downunderclub.mb.ca, or phone our president at 663-6549. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

In the meantime, see you at ANZAC Day! All the details elsewhere on this page.



"I came across this photo when I was sorting out some old newsletter files and thought it might give you a giggle. This was taken out at Boral's office site at Greystanes (NSW), quite a built-up area nowadays, but still has some open spaces. Still I think our guys were a bit surprised to see this visitor."

Photo courtesy of my good friend, Anna, who works with Boral, Australia. Thanks, Anna! (Ed.)

Savour our new brunch menu



What better way to enjoy the weekend than with a delicious brunch! Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We have introduced the Aussie Breakfast Pizza and our Lobster Omelette to the menu, and you can still get all your old favourites.

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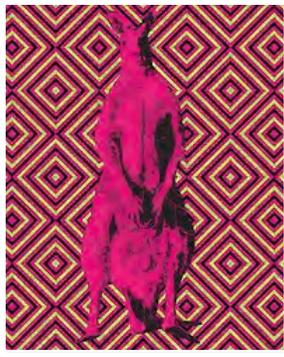
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source: Sydney Morning Herald, unless noted.

“Powerful relationship” ... Reko Rennie’s work Big Red. Photo: SMH.



More to Aboriginal art than connecting the dots

[Mar 6, 2012] Ask a lot of people what they know about Australian art and their thoughts often turn to dot paintings, ochre colours and, of course, the ubiquitous kangaroo. But Aboriginal artist Reko Rennie aims to challenge that stereotype when he exhibits his work at a prestigious New York art fair this month – the first Australian to be invited. Rennie uses spray paint, stencils, photography, video and sculpture to produce vivid Andy Warhol-influenced works. “It will be interesting to see their responses,” the Melbourne-born artist said.

Saying goodbye ... Dame Edna. Photo: Michele Ferguson.



Not your average Edna

[Mar 23, 2012] Edna Everage’s long goodbye, along with those of Sir Les Patterson and Sandy Stone, will also mark their irrepressible creator’s farewell to the stage. Australia’s greatest living comic queen, Dame Edna Everage, has announced her impending retirement from live – or what she calls “flesh and blood” – theatre. With typical humility, she said, “To be the most loved woman ... as I am is a responsibility. I wear it lightly, but I mustn’t abuse it.” Her new show, Eat, Pray, Laugh, opens in June and

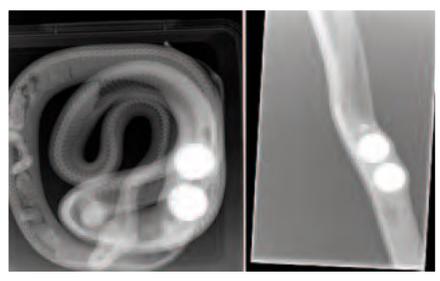
will tour nationally and internationally for two years. The Dame has been strutting her stuff since December 1955, thanks to the genius of Barry Humphries, whose astonishingly admirable 5½-decade theatrical record of relying essentially on the same act has given us some of the most endearing characters in our history. Thanks to you all!

Sydney’s monorail. Photo: Helen Nezdropa.



Monorail derailed

[Mar 23, 2012] Sydney’s iconic monorail is to be taken down and replaced with a light rail network. A move welcomed by Lord Mayor Clover Moore, it will also allow for the accommodation of the new convention centre at Darling Harbour and the efficient development of the light rail network. A controversial part of Sydney’s history for more than 20 years, the monorail was never truly embraced by the community. “Replacing it with efficient and effective light rail will improve transport access in central Sydney.”



X-rays reveal golf balls inside Calloway. Photo: Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Tough sport to swallow

[Mar 27, 2012] To snake a ball is generally considered a good thing when playing golf. A golf ball in a snake is not as positive. Calloway, the coastal carpet python, found that out the hard way after he mistook two golf balls for eggs in a chicken coop in Kyogle, NSW. It wasn’t entirely his fault; the chickens’ owners had placed the balls there so not to overly bother their chickens when removing eggs. But the two-year-old snake swal-

lowed himself a whole lot of trouble. “Commonly the snake won’t be caught afterwards, so we only have Calloway because he returned” to the scene of the crime. Lucky snake!



Tim Storrier, with his dog Smudge, in front of his work, The Historic Wayfarer (after Bosch). Photo: Wolter Peeters.

Victory to everyman and his best friend

[Mar 31, 2012] The Trustees of the Art Gallery of NSW have awarded the 2012 Archibald Prize and \$75,000 cheque to a self-portrait of an invisible Tim Storrier. The winning painting, based loosely and improbably on a work by Hieronymus Bosch, is the latest in a long line of self-portraits in which the artist is distinguishable only by his clothes and chattels. It suggests a nagging insecurity beneath the braggadocio. (click to see the finalists).

Watch where you walk. Photo: SMH.



Weather there be redbacks

[Apr 7, 2012] They’re colourful, small and hidden in the garden. But unsuspecting gardeners and explorers may find more than they bargained for because redback spiders have thrived in recent mild weather. Redbacks live across the continent, and the damp and moisture cause population explosions of mosquitoes and other insects that the long-legged spiders feast on. So, be sure to watch out – the spiders prefer to spin their untidy webs on the side of houses that receive more sun, and also hide under steps, on downpipes and in children’s toys and old bikes. And be sure to check any shoes left outside, just in case.

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Giant earthworm
Spenceriella gigantea.
Photo: NZ Herald.



The giant worm that turns... up

[Mar 23, 2012] No one knows how

large they can grow, but giant, blind, glow-in-the-dark earthworms are wriggling a couple of metres beneath the surface around Auckland. A 75 cm-long specimen was a surprise discovery for the owner of the Ti Point Reptile Park in Warkworth, who came across the worm on his morning rounds. Rarely seen live above ground, *Spenceriella gigantea* is thought to be New Zealand's largest worm, can glow in the dark, burrow through the earth in a network of tunnels, and has twice as many hairs as normal earthworms, making it feel "unshaven". Who said earthworms are boring?!



That's a lot of spread! Photo: www.trademe.co.nz.

Massive Marmite goes for \$2,115

[Mar 30, 2012] A charity auction winner will be able to ride out the Marmageddon in ostentatious style after bidding \$2,115 for a massive 25kg bucket of the yeasty spread. The motherlode of Marmite and a 175g jar of the spread picked up the outlandish sum in a Trade Me auction listed by Gilmours Hamilton. The idea for the charity auction came about when staff at the wholesaler were sitting around the lunchroom table and having a bit of a laugh at "the crazy prices" people were asking for Marmite. There was even interest from far afield, with one potential bidder asking what the postage to Dubai would cost. "Hopefully they didn't win ... it's got to go first class." The winning bidder gets to choose which charity the auction proceeds will go to. Nice!



Carisbrook in its former glory. Photo: Mark Mitchell.

Carisbrook properties, and shed, sold

[Mar 30, 2012, Otago Daily Times] The majority of one of three parcels of land at Dunedin's Carisbrook Stadium has been sold, with the city council securing a return of about \$700,000. The council confirmed the figure for six houses and one shed in Burns St, leaving two houses to be sold. The land was formerly owned by the Otago Rugby Football Union and, along with the stadium and the car park next door, sold to the council in 2009, once the Forsyth Barr Stadium became a certainty.

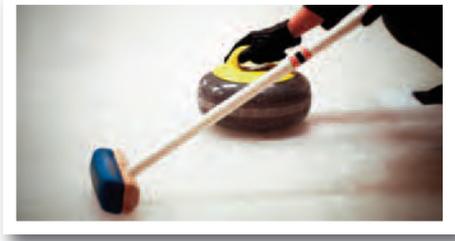


Fragments of 1200-year-old manuscript sewn into 15th-century volumes. Photo: Dean Purcell.

History within history

[Apr 5, 2012] Fragments of 1200-year-old parchment manuscripts have been found sewn into some of Auckland Library's oldest books. And researchers believe they are the earliest remains of western manuscripts held in the southern hemisphere. Library staff found some of the strips in the centre binding of a donated bible printed in Germany in the late 15th century. The ancient

monastery would have had its own bindery. "They would have chopped the old ones up and sewn in the bits to strengthen the centres."



Hurry hard! Photo: Thinkstock.

Historic win is what we'll remember

[Apr 6, 2012] Judging by recent comments on Facebook, many of us didn't even know that New Zealand had a curling team. So when the Kiwis made an appearance in the round robin of the 2012 World Men's Curling Championship in Basel, Switzerland, it was a surprise, to say the least. After losing the first two games, it seemed their appearance might not be much to write home about. When they were 6-4 up, it started to look very interesting. And when they finished at 7-4 after an historic win over Canada to reach the playoff rounds, it was nothing short of fantastic! The Canadians were unbeaten in their previous nine games and on track to soundly beating all contenders. All except the New Zealand team, who ignored the odds and claimed their historic 9-7 win – and their country's first against Canada. And even though NZ were then beaten in the tiebreaker game against Sweden the next day and eliminated from the playoffs, it is the game against Canada and the Kiwis fantastic rise from outsiders to contenders that will long be remembered. In the words of Canadian skip Glenn Howard, "I give them credit, they played terrific. I think they outplayed us so they deserved to win." Indeed! And what's more? Now everyone knows New Zealand has a curling team. Watch out next year, world!

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS

A recent article in the *New Zealand Herald* (April 10, 2012) inadvertently begged the question, who sends mail anymore? According to *NZ Post*, nearly 30 million fewer letters and parcels were sent by snail mail in the past year. This represents a 7 per cent drop, which would have been worse if not for the bulk mailouts during the general election. With social networking sites and online media making communicating much easier, convenient and immediate, the traditional concept of "posting" anything has largely been pushed aside. Personally, I like to write and send cards and letters – handwritten on beautiful stationery for special events or just because. But I also enjoy the benefits of social media, although texting is still beyond me. So, a question for you all: **Do you still like to send cards and letters, or do you prefer e-forms of communication?** Send your comments to info@downunderclub.mb.ca, or pop them in the mail and send to: DUCW, PO Box 1655 Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6. All will be revealed in an upcoming issue.

Leigh Murphy

It was not until we had almost completed this interview with Leigh that I realised we share mutual interests. And we had actually met about five years ago when I suggested she join the Club - which she did!

Leigh Clark was born at the Sydney Adventist Hospital in the Wahroonga suburb of Sydney, NSW. After attending Hornsby Elementary and Asquith Girls High schools, she went on to the University of Sydney where she earned a BSc(Hons) and PhD in reproductive endocrinology (hormones, fertility, etc.). It was here she met her future husband, Liam, who was working on his medical degree.

Liam's family came out from Ireland and Leigh and Liam were married in Sydney in 1973.

Leigh wanted to expand upon her expertise and undertake research into the causes and treatment of breast cancer. She went back to Sydney University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. At the same time, Liam finished his specialist training in clinical endocrinology and then earned his PhD in endocrinology.

In 1984, they were offered positions in Canada to continue their work, and chose Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba, where Dr Henry Friesen and his colleague Dr Robert Shiu were internationally recognised for their research into diseases associated with abnormal hormones including breast cancer. This was supposed to be a two-year contract, but Dr Friesen made Leigh and Liam offers to serve on the University Faculty of Medicine and establish research laboratories in the Faculty of Medicine.

Leigh is currently a professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics. In 2000, she was recruited as a senior scientist to the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology, which is the research institute (or research arm) of CancerCare Manitoba.

Liam, a professor of medicine, became the Head of Clinical Endocrinology at the Health Sciences Centre, but sadly died in 2006.

Leigh and Liam's son, Patrick, was born in 1989 and is presently at the U of M completing a computer science degree.

Leigh used to be a runner and is interested in aerobics. She still exercises regularly,



Leigh Murphy and her son Patrick

though is recovering from a turned knee while skiing. She became a dual Canadian citizen a few years back when the regulations were amended.

She enjoys the theatre, jazz concerts, cinema and opera, which must provide some respite from her obviously busy schedule.

Gordon Keatch

Help us get to know you!

Thanks to Gordon Keatch, this column has introduced us more thoroughly to many of our DUCW members. If you would like us to get to know you a bit better, or if you have a suggestion of another member we have not yet profiled, please contact Gordon at 832-4405.

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Highway death by hollandaise sauce

Death by hollandaise sauce? Well, just about.

Certainly, a serious auto crash injuring the driver on a precarious cliffside road was caused by an excess of the rich yellow condiment.

It happened last month in the Rimutaka Hills near Greytown, NZ.

Sheryll Brasell still shakes as she recalls the car she was driving, carrying her 6-year-old daughter, Courtney, suddenly spinning 360 degrees. It was out of control and had landed on the opposite side of the road. That was lucky. She had been driving on the cliff side of the highway. This and the fact there were no on-coming vehicles were lifesavers.

Despite the slippery yellow stuff on her wheels, she was able to get back on the road and make a slippery ascent to the top of the hill.

There things became clearer. A truck, dripping the sauce, had stopped. Mrs Brasell saw why.

The farmer-owner said he had bought a 100-litre drum of reject hollandaise sauce to feed stock on his farm. He realized something was wrong, when following cars started honking, their drivers gesticulating. The drum had split.

It wasn't funny, but there were lots of jokes told in town about new potential for eggs benedict as a summer ski lubricant.

Commonwealth advocating trade preferences for small states

Marlborough House is advancing the idea that access to international markets presents tremendous opportunities for poor Commonwealth countries to trade their way out of poverty.

A more open trading system is seen as the solution to raising income levels and reducing poverty in hard-hit smaller Commonwealth states. It remains for the Commonwealth Secretariat to be persuasive on this issue to the mature, developed nations with a return to preferred trading principles of a pre-European Union era.

The secretariat is at the forefront of the advocacy here, seeking a forward-looking international trading regime that is open, free and development oriented.

To advance this, developing member countries must gain skills to improve their understanding of trading regulations. They also need help in strengthening their effec-

tiveness in WTO negotiations, providing policy advice, research, advocacy, and other forms of technical assistance.

For example, the Hub and Spokes Project promotes the effective participation of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries in international trade negotiations, and works to strengthen their capacity to formulate and implement trade policies. It does this by placing trade experts in selected ACP countries to provide this expertise.

Government calls Sri Lanka journalists traitors, threatens leg-breaking

They call journalists traitors for carrying stories in their newspapers and broadcasts supporting a UN resolution. The resolution calls for an investigation into the country's abuse of international laws during its war with Tamil separatists.

Sri Lankan authorities have openly threatened journalists who deviated from the government line, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Human Rights Watch, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Officials are not only saying these journalists are "traitors", but one is threatening to break their legs.

The UN Human Rights Council resolution, passed on March 22, called for an investigation into human rights violations carried out by the military in the last phase of the country's long civil war.

"In its failed efforts to block the council resolution, the Sri Lankan government saw fit to put its own citizens at risk through vicious personal attacks on rights advocates," said Human Rights Watch. "It's a credit to Human Rights Council members that they saw through the government's scare tactics to avoid accountability."

According to Human Rights Watch, HR advocates and journalists attending the UN session in Geneva were labelled traitors by Colombo and their photos were published in national media and blogs. The BBC reports that although the activists and journalists were not specifically named, Sri Lankan state television repeatedly zoomed in on thinly disguised photographs of them, promising to give their names soon and to "expose more traitors".

"Things are quite tense here. We've had anti-U.S. and anti-resolution protests the past few days, and now we're waiting to see who they will hit out at next," one journalist in Colombo told CPJ.



Fiji floods. Photo: Skynews

Floods in western Fiji displace 7,000

About 7,000 were displaced by floodwaters in Fiji this month, and forecasts said things were going to get worse.

Reports in the *Sydney Morning Herald* say two people have died in the floods, which have damaged homes and forced hundreds into evacuation centres. It was clearly a state-of-emergency circumstance.

Heavy rain persisted in Nadi, on Fiji's west coast. It was under about 1.8m of water, with levels still rising. The situation was the same in the town of Ba. Nadi Airport was open to departing flights, but all inbound Air Pacific flights were cancelled.

Malawi Human rights official arrested to silence his UN testimony

According to IFEX reports, the arbitrary arrest of John Kapito, chairman of the Malawi Human Rights Commission, is yet another alarming example of the rapidly deteriorating environment for HR defenders in Malawi. Mr. Kapito was detained last month on allegations that he was involved in "printing and distributing seditious materials," including t-shirts that insult President Bingu wa Mutharika. A search of Kapito's home uncovered no such materials. He was interrogated for hours and consistently denied legal representation before he was ultimately released. There is widespread speculation that Mr. Kapito was arrested to prevent him from testifying at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva at which Malawi's final human rights report will be presented as a part of the Universal Periodic Review process.

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president and honorary secretary-treasurer of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; Honorary lieutenant colonel of the 78th Fraser Highlanders a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.

remember

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funnybusiness

down under humour - courtesy the brown ale

Things You Can Do with Beer

Proof that beer is the greatest substance ever invented.

Joe Kita, Men's Health [Mar 16, 2007, men.msn.com]

MARINATE MEAT – Beer is slightly acidic – and that makes it an excellent meat tenderizer, says Linda Omichinski, R.D., a nutritionist. This allows you to enjoy leaner cuts that otherwise might be too tough. Beer also won't alter the meat's flavor as much as wine- and vinegar-based marinades do. Poke a few holes in the meat, put it in a Tupperware container or a large resealable bag, and add beer. (English ale is great for beef.) Marinate in the refrigerator for a few hours or, better yet, overnight. Do not drink the marinade.

POLISH POTS – In days of yore, the last bit of beer from spent kegs was collected and used to polish the copper vats in breweries. Greg Smith, general manager of the Idaho Brewing Company, is keeping the tradition alive by using beer to put a shine on the copper-top tables in his Idaho Falls establishment. "Because of its acidity," he explains, "you can just pour some on, let it sit for a while, then wipe it off."

MAKE BEER BARBECUE SAUCE

– Combine all ingredients listed below in a large saucepan and boil for 10 minutes. Lower heat and simmer about 4 hours until thickened. Cool and refrigerate for 24 hours so the flavors can meld. Then baste everything with it.

1 medium Spanish onion, diced
1 medium banana pepper, diced
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbsp capers
5 ripe tomatoes, diced
1 small can tomato paste
1/3 c each wine vinegar, olive oil, soy sauce, brown sugar
1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
2 Tbsp each Worcestershire sauce, Tabasco, honey, Dijon mustard, horseradish, oregano
2 Tbsp fresh ground pepper
1 tsp cumin
Dash of ground clove
12 ounces amber ale or porter

SHAMPOO HAIR – Not only is beer the remedy for a dull party, it's also the cure for dull hair. Dump a cup into a small saucepan and bring it to a boil over medium heat. Let it reduce until there's 1/4 cup left. This removes the alcohol, which can dry hair. Let the beer cool, then mix it with a cup of your favorite shampoo. Pour it into an empty shampoo bottle, then wash and rinse as usual. It'll give your hair more shine and luster.

bottomfivesites

some favourite links to follow

www.giantfreakinrobot.com/sci/astounding-scientific-truth-universe.html scientific poetry

www.cellphones.ca/cell-phones/ in case you are in the market (thanks, Jacqueline!)

www.cbc.ca/canadawrites winning stories from Canadian writers

www.timeanddate.com time and date in ANY city (thanks again, Jacqueline!)

factandphoto.tumblr.com/ learn something new every day

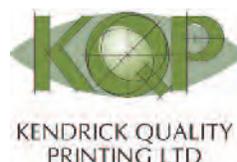


CLEAR UP BROWN SPOTS IN YOUR LAWN

– According to Andrew Lopez, a professional gardener, the fermented sugars in beer stimulate plant growth and kill fungi. He recommends spraying either home brew or Rolling Rock (both are chemical-free) on those annoying brown spots in your lawn. Either that, or just stop peeing there. [Try and tell the dog that!] "The grass will absorb the sugar in the beer and draw energy from it," Lopez explains.

Stay tuned. More to come in future issues ...

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The Southern Yarn

May 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

May

downundercalendar
2012

details on page 3

JUNE

Morning at The Zoo

Saturday June 16, 8:50 AM

Assiniboine Park Zoo

enter by the South Gate,

meet at 8:50 am

Once again, we are invited to take a 'behind the scenes' tour of our ever expanding and changing zoo. Curator Tim Sinclair-Smith will be our guide as we look, listen and learn. Again, we are limited to 20 people, and encourage those who missed out last time to get their names down now by calling Lynley at **275-7631 ASAP**. And then we will open the list up to those who went before and would like to go again. Plan to stay around after the event to visit more of your favourite animal friends — on your own time and your own schedule. Admission is a donation (suggested minimum \$10 individual, \$20 per family) that will be used to provide for an animal group at the Zoo.

JULY

Saturday July 14, 2:30 pm

Pool Party and Potluck

57 D'arcy Drive

The club will provide burger and buns, but it is a potluck so please bring side dishes and desserts. Let Lynley know you are coming by calling her at **275-7631** or **943-3775**.

AUGUST

Golf Tournament

Details in an upcoming issue of the Yarn

RSVP

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



The International Polar Bear Conservation Centre. Photo: assiniboineparkzoo.ca.

You at the Zoo!

Coming up in June is an opportunity to go behind the scenes and spend some time at Assiniboine Park Zoo. If you can't make it to that event, here are a few things to encourage you to plan your own visit to our Zoo this summer.

Meeting new friends

You might meet the Zoo's youngest African lion cub. Born at the end of March to proud mother Kayia and her mate Xerces, the cub is a wonderful addition to the Zoo family. And speaking of lions, the Zoo is also the only facility in North America that is home to a pair of Asiatic lions – twin brothers from the Zoologischer Garten Magdeburg in Germany.

Playing around

Have you checked out the Nature Playground yet? Word is that the basket swings, crow's nest and slithering slides are already open. Great for kids of all ages.

Getting in

The main entrance to the Zoo is now located at the South Gate – 2595 Roblin Blvd. As the construction of Journey to Churchill progresses within the north east area of the Zoo, entering through the South Gate allows for easier navigation and a better all-around visitor experience.

Getting around

The Zoo has a 42-seat tram that runs seven days a week. It navigates along a new route from inside the South Gate entrance, and makes several stops throughout the Zoo. Once you are inside, there is no cost to ride the tram, which is both wheelchair and stroller accessible.

Continuing the Journey ...

And the Journey to Churchill exhibit continues to grow and develop. Scheduled to open in October 2013, the world-class exhibit is part of a dramatic transformation of the Zoo that will feature significant renovations, new exhibits, enhanced facilities for visitors, and a more visible and active contribution to environmental and wildlife education, research and conservation in Manitoba. The International Polar Bear Conservation Centre is already open – how exciting!

Thanks to Lynley Davidson and zoo director Tim Sinclair-Smith for teaming up again to organise the June event for us. Call Lynley today – **275-7631** – to reserve your spot, but if you miss out, make your way to the Zoo this summer (or anytime) and enjoy all that it has to offer!

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editorially yours

Jenny Gates



Signs that spring has morphed into summer – lawn needs mowing, ice-cream truck comes a-calling, everyone is barbecuing in their shorts and T-shirts, dandelions are everywhere, a wasp finds its way inside, and it rains, which means mosquitos are just around the corner!

What are your plans for this summer? The Club has a few things on the agenda that we hope you will take advantage of, and if you are doing anything special, be sure to send us some photos to include in the *Yarn*.

In the meantime, the May issue is packed with great info and updates.

Be sure to check out the summer activities (pp 1 and 3), and read up on what happened at our ANZAC Day event (pp 2 and 3). There is interesting newsy tidbits from Australia and New Zealand (pp 4 and 5), and an opportunity to get to know Carol and Mike Bigold (p 6). Keep reading for everything you wanted to know about the Commonwealth (p 7), some member updates (p 8), and more things you can do with beer (p 8).

Enjoy the read, and we'll see you at the Zoo, beside the pool, and on the green this summer!

Jenny



Calling all soccer enthusiasts

A Winnipeg outdoor co-ed soccer team is looking for some experienced players. Their season runs from May to September. If you are interested or have any questions, please

contact Siri at **887-4957** or email sirik03@gmail.com.

It was good to see those who came to the ANZAC event and paid their respects to those who laid down their lives to preserve what today we take for granted in Canada, Australia and New Zealand – freedom and the right to express our views without fear of persecution. Thank you for remembering.



president's ramblings

Terry Roberts

Having said that, I was very disappointed that so many of our Down Under Club members would rather spend this day doing other things, rather than spend just a couple of hours honouring those who made that possible. How many have fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers who served in so many conflicts and put their lives on the line to give us those freedoms that we enjoy?!

I think maybe too many have forgotten. For myself, my grandfather served in the Canadian Forces in WWI and was at Vimy Ridge. He died a couple of years after the war due to mustard gas used in the trenches. My mother and aunt grew up without a father. My father served in the English Airforce (WWII) based in Australia, helping to

protect the northern waterways from the Japanese.

My mother served in the Land-army in England in WWII and lived through the London blitz, seeing firsthand what German bombs did to London. My stepfather served in the Army engineers in WWII and was at Dunkirk, in North Africa, ending up in Germany in 1945 at

the end of the war. He had friends killed in front of him, just yards away.

I have been very lucky in that I have not had to serve my country in war. No wars like those before happened while I was growing up. Most of us have been lucky.

The least we can do is attend a once-a-year service to thank those who made this possible. This is the reason the Club came into being and I would hate to see its demise because we have forgotten.

Jerry



Pat McGrath, Mark and Melanie Vezey and son Finn, with Lucia Barron in the middle. Melanie was the coordinator of our first ever Folklorama pavilion in 1993. Lucia caught up with them all in Auckland in April.

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What happened ...

ANZAC Day

About 23 members and their family and friends joined with 12 veterans and their wives for our ANZAC commemoration this year. The very moving service experienced a lighter moment prior to the playing of the national anthems – you had to be there – and everyone stayed around for the delicious potluck dinner. Thanks to Brian for stepping in with the bugle calls and anthems on CD, to flag bearers Charlie Powell and Andrew Cobb, to Kerry and friends in the kitchen, to everyone who took the time to prepare the food, and to those who came out to this very important date on our calendar.

What's up next ...

JUNE

Saturday June 16, 8:50 am A Day at The Zoo

Assiniboine Park Zoo, enter by the South Gate

Once again, we are invited to take a 'behind the scenes' tour of our ever expanding and changing zoo. Curator Tim Sinclair-Smith will be our guide as we look, listen and learn. Again, we are limited to 20 people, and encourage those who missed out last time to get their names down now by calling Lynley at 275-7631 ASAP. And then we will open the list up to those who went before and would like to go again. Plan to stay around after the event to visit more of your favourite animal friends – on your own time and your own schedule. Admission is a donation (suggested minimum \$10 individual, \$20 per family) that will be used to provide for an animal group at the Zoo. (Confirm)

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AUGUST

Golf Tournament

Also on the agenda ...

OCTOBER - formal dinner

NOVEMBER - AGM and Club Officer Elections

DECEMBER - Christmas Party



The 2012 ANZAC Day brought out the uniforms and medals. This opportunity was taken to recognize those who gave some of the best years of their youth to national service.

Photos by
Brian Hydesmith



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Remembering a man who touched the hearts of many. Photo: Brian Harvey.

Farewelled with tears, laughter and song

[Apr 12, 2012] On a sunny autumn day, Jimmy Little, one of the best-loved and admired Aborigines of his generation, was laid to rest next to his wife Marjorie, in the Walgett Cemetery. A service celebrating Little's life was simple and moving, and musical homage was paid by Doug Peters and Cyril Green, members of Little's original indigenous trio from the 1960s. The Doonache Aboriginal Dancers, from the country where Little's father had been born, escorted the casket from the church. At the graveside, in a deeply moving ceremony, they sang Little into the ground. Members of Little's family had brought soil from his father's land that was thrown onto the casket, and there was also soil from the Yorta Yorta lands along the Murray River where Little grew up. The funeral was a celebration of a man who touched everyone he met.



Rock star Aaron Bonanno. Photo: Dallas Kilponen

Project out of this world

[Apr 14, 2012] Aaron Bonanno has designed a renewable energy system to power a futuristic moon colony. The boy who soaked up anything to do with space, travel and exploration is now a fourth-year university student about to appear before a conference of some of the finest space engineers to present his findings at the Earth and Space 2012 Conference in California. Using basalt from a quarry to simulate moon dust, he has

developed solar thermal energy blocks that are lightweight and easy to transport and store. "You don't have solar power during the day and don't have sun during nighttime, so you need a way to store heat." He proposes using the bricks as building materials for a moon base and says they will be strong enough to withstand the might of a meteorite strike.



Fish passage development program in central Laos. Photo: aciar.gov.au.

Fishing in Laos

[Apr 20, 2012, FishSite, courtesy Charlie Powell] Workers at Fisheries Queensland have been sharing fishing techniques in Laos villages to help provide food through increased stocks. The A\$2.2 million five-year project is a partnership between the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, and Fisheries Queensland. "Damming of wetlands along the Mekong River has improved rice production, but has impacted on the number of fish, which is the main source of protein in Lao culture. This project is about providing people along the Lower Mekong River with the tools and expertise required to increase fish stocks through the construction of fish passages."



Darling Harbour to expand the exhibition and convention centre. Photo: Carolyn Cummins.

Harbourside makeover

[Apr 21, 2012] The decision to close Darling Harbour facilities for three years while they are reconstructed could mean Sydney will miss out on hosting 69 exhibitions that are too big for the only alternative venues available. The biggest international conference in

Australia, an IT event called CeBIT, could move to Melbourne or Asia – permanently – and others may follow suit. "If we don't have a suitable high-quality space confirmed by the middle of the year, we will have to make decisions about where we go." [Ed: I remember seeing Elton John, Billy Joel, David Bowie and Pink Floyd in the old Entertainment Centre. You?]



Winston the koala was refused entry to the Parliament. Photo: Penny Bradfield.

Koalas threatened amid rapid decline

[Apr 27, 2012] Koalas are expected to be listed as a threatened species across parts of Australia, and some environment groups claim the government has excluded the marsupial from protection in certain areas due to mining interests. Some reports show that koala populations have declined by 75 per cent since 1993. The new ruling is likely to list koalas in south-east Queensland as "endangered", and animals east of the Great Dividing Range in NSW as "vulnerable". The national icon is dwindling because of the combined pressures of development in its habitat, drought, climate change, and from the disease chlamydia.

Beer consumption under threat?
Photo: Andrew Quilty.



Tipple turns to a trickle

[May 4, 2012] Australians are drinking less alcohol and even the steady growth in wine quaffing has stopped. The latest figures by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that beer drinking has plunged to a 65-year low. And for the first time in about two decades, the nation's wine intake has dipped slightly, despite the wide availability of inexpensive products. The population-wide drift toward sobriety may reflect the caution of an ageing population, and even the impact of government campaigns such as the "Don't turn a night out into a nightmare" television message.



Scene of the accident. Photo: NZ Herald.

Hero boy saves trapped sister

[Apr 14, 2012] A young boy managed to keep calm and pull his badly injured sister out from beneath a crashed ute after her head had become trapped under the vehicle. The 14-year-old girl has been described as “very lucky” after she survived the accident with serious injuries to her head and face. While witnesses lifted the vehicle, the girl’s brother, believed to be aged about 7 or 8, got in and pulled her out. “He was strong. He did very well. Full credit goes to him – he’s a tough little nut.”



ANZAC poppies near the Auckland waterfront today. Photo: NZ Herald.

Fields of poppies in Auckland

[Apr 20, 2012] A field of thousands of ANZAC poppies has been planted on Auckland’s waterfront to boost awareness of Poppy Day. Westpac brand manager Bec Reynolds says a team of 11 started planting the poppies in the field from 4:00 am. She says about 12,500 poppies were used in the display, which was completed just after 6:00 am. Ms Reynolds says there had been a positive response to the poppies, with many people taking photos and one woman commenting she almost cried upon seeing the display. “It is gathering a whole load of donations, too,

which is the point.” Poppy Day is held on the Friday before ANZAC Day, and is the RSA’s main fundraising day each year.

A family watching television in the lounge of their home. Photo: NZ Herald.



50 years of ‘the box’ in NZ

[Apr 20, 2012] This month marks 50 years since the New Zealand public were able to rent their very own television set – a luxury item back in the 1960s. Owning a television set may be the norm these days, but half a century ago it was a rare delight to have one sitting in the lounge. Buying a 23-inch black and white television would set you back £130 back then – approximately \$4,500 today. “This was the age before iPods and iPads...it was a huge deal.” Back in those days, there was only one channel that started around dinner time and finished about 11:00 pm. “Sometimes we’d just be sitting there watching static. There was nothing on, but we’d all be staring at it.” [Ed: Hey, I still have that problem today, and we have access to 70 stations!]



Photo: NZ Herald.

NZ wines on top of world

[May 3, 2012] Seven Kiwi wine brands are included on an international top 50 list called the “world’s most admired wine brands” – Brancott Estate (14), Oyster Bay (17), Cloudy Bay (22), Villa Maria (31), Babich (44), Wither Hills (46), and Nobilo (48). New Zealand’s success on the world wine stage has been gradually building. Overseas, its wine was renowned for its quality, sustainability and diversity. “We started winning competitions 25 or 30 years ago with our sauvignon blanc, and we are now getting recognition for our chardonnay,

pinot noir and other red wines.” Recent figures show that the country’s annual export wine sales have quadrupled to more than \$1 billion. Outstanding!



This big piggy took Jack all the way home. Photo: Otago Daily Times.

Biggy piggy

[May 7, 2012] It may sound like a familiar nursery rhyme, but this little piggy is not going to market. A 3-year-old large white boar named Toby weighs in at 600 kg and measures 2 m from snout to curly tail. Dad to more piglets than anyone can count, Toby is affectionately described as “a gentleman of the pig world” and is naturally large – no overfeeding or enhancements involved. “There’s not a bad bone in his body. He’s easy to please, a hit with the ladies and eats just the same as any other pig.”

Kara Hurring appears in the Rotorua District Court. Photo: The Daily Post



Remember them?

[May 8, 2012] The trial for the former Rotorua woman who allegedly left New Zealand with her partner when Westpac mistakenly put \$10 million into his account is set to start next week. Kara Hurring allegedly fled New Zealand in April 2009 after a \$10 million overdraft facility was mistakenly loaded by Westpac into her partner Hui ‘Leo’ Gao’s account. She has been charged with international money laundering to the value of more than HK\$1.5 million [\$230,000] relating to activities in Macau. [Ed: Ummm, what happened to the rest of the money?]

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Carol & Charles (Mike) Bigold

Those who have noticed customers coming out of the High Tea Bakery loaded with goodies may not be aware of its humble beginnings. So here's the story.

Carol Sewell was born in Wollongong, NSW, south of Sydney. Her father was in construction and moved around to different job sites, so she went to various schools in NSW and finished high school in Cabramatta.

After trying a few different jobs, Carol found work at the Department of Navy's Garden Island Dockyards in Sydney; Mike also worked there. In 1971, they came to Powell River, BC, Mike's hometown, for his mother's funeral. During this trip they were married in Victoria, BC. They then returned to Oz, but decided if they wanted to raise a family they should move back to Canada because the cost of living and wages were much better in Canada at that time.

They moved to Canada around Christmas 1972 and spent the next 12 years in Powell River. During this time Carol was a stay-at-home mum raising four children.

Carol and Mike also helped found a ballet school, and one of their children proved to be so talented that she was able to attend the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Professional Division. As a result, the family moved to Winnipeg in 1985.

In 1986, when their fifth child was born, Carol started an in-home day care. On returning to work, she took a job at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in the Development Dept during the day and also worked part time at The Bay. During this time, she had surgery and started taking chemotherapy for cancer. Carol is happy to say she has been cancer free for 12 years. After recovering, she worked at Progress Rail in the accounting department until taking the leap to own her own business.

When their second eldest daughter Melanie was going to Oz to dance with the Australian Ballet, Carol started baking cookies as a fundraiser. And so began a new career that led, in 2003, to the opening of a shop at 941 Portage Ave in Winnipeg. About four years ago, the shop moved to its present location at High Tea Bakery, 2103 Portage Ave, a few doors east of Deer Lodge Hospital.

Daughter Belinda is a co-owner of the store and holds a BFA from the University of



L to r: Richard (Melanie's partner), Jeremy, Brodie, Melanie, Michelle, Ralph (Belinda's husband), Belinda and granddaughter Ava. Picture was taken in Worcester where the whole family invaded for Christmas.

Manitoba. Melanie was a dancer and earned a Masters from the University of Toronto, a PhD from Oxford, and now teaches in Cardiff, Wales. Son Jeremy was also a dancer and jeweller, and is now working in the forestry department with the City of Winnipeg. Son Brodie is in Toronto, managing a flagship store for a Toronto jeweller. Daughter Michelle has a political science degree from the U of M and is studying for a BFA. She is the talented cake decorator at the bakery.

The business gained some notoriety a few years ago at the Golden Globe awards in California, when the bakery's Imperial cookies were featured in the Canadian Gift Lounge. More interest came with the Queen's visit two years ago when Imperials were decorated with the Royal emblem. And next month for the Queen's Jubilee they will be served at the Lt. Governor's reception.

Carol keeps busy teaching decorating, cupcake making, and other classes at the bakery.

Mike was born in Powell River, went to

school there and started working at the Mill. During the Vietnam War, he decided to go to Australia, join the Military and fight the Vietcong. Instead, he ended up working at Victoria Barracks in Sydney and the Naval HQ in Garden Island.

Carol and Mike don't go back to Oz much, though they did go for a six-month tour of the Pacific a few years ago. In Winnipeg, Mike worked for J. M. Schneider and then the RWB as Box Office manager, and later facilities manager in their new location.

In 2008, he suffered a stroke that had some debilitating effects. You will find him holding court in the coffee shop of the bakery!

The Bigolds were members of the DUCW in 2005-2006, and rejoined last year.

So, next time you're in the mood for some great cookies, biscuits, fair dinkum lamingtons, and beautifully decorated wedding or birthday cakes, drop in to the High Tea Bakery. You won't be disappointed.

Gordon Keatch

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CMAG flexes some to bring two of the Commonwealth's "misbehaving" small-children states back into line — or else

The Ministerial Action Group, viewed as the hardnosed enforcer of Commonwealth principles, last month addressed the troubling human rights situations relating to two of its "bad" children — Fiji and the Maldives.

Its reports were less than thrilling, despite a tougher tone.

There was a little chiding of both nations' administrations. There were a few sympathetic niceties about Fiji's dreadful floods. And CMAG was in "deep regret" at the lack of progress toward a political understanding in the Maldives.

Fiji was told there had to be a return to "democracy, rule of law and human rights in accordance with fundamental political values of the Commonwealth" if it is to be restored to full membership in the Commonwealth.

In a message of similar tone, the current Maldives leaders were told to get cracking on political party talks, to be held without interruption, and "involving senior representatives of the parties" with a view to election before the end of 2012. It was felt the current inquiry body was "neither genuinely independent credible nor impartial".

On the plus side, CMAG welcomed the "constitutional consultation process" that it said destined Fiji to an election in September 2014. Another plus was Fiji's rulers' decision to lift the oppressive Public Emergency Regulation in the expectation there would be a major improvement in the human rights situation. However, there was no evidence yet of the much-needed improvement. CMAG pressed for action here.

The tone of the Maldives report was also softened somewhat by CMG reaffirmation of support in strengthening the democratic process, the judicial sector and elections related assistance.

This CMAG session, held in London, was the group's first gathering since the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth in October last year.

It has a lot more work ahead of it if the long list of weaknesses identified by the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) presented in Perth is to be remedied to shift the Commonwealth off the road to irrelevance.

Report ranks Australia's net-threat alongside Iran and North Korea

Who would believe Australia could be tarred with the same brush as Iran and North Korea in terms of human rights and freedom of expression?

It has happened. The Australian Government has been called to task for its plan to block access to websites featuring material such as rape, drug use, bestiality and child sex abuse. This prompts a top international media rights group, Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF), based in Paris and others around the world to describe it as a threat of internet censorship and a muzzling of media to match some of the most egregious hardliners of HR in the world.

Critics in Australia described the measure publically and editorially as a misguided one that will likely harm civil liberties, and herald the imposition of "draconian laws (which) are creating too many specific restrictions on web users by challenging their anonymity and promoting self-censorship".

The furor was provoked by the long-awaited release of the government's Convergence Review of the media sector.

"The measure that has attracted this blast of criticism that likens media policies to standards set by some other countries are worrying us because they have measures that could have repercussions for freedom of expression on the internet," said RSF secretary general Jean-Francois Julliard at an internet rights award ceremony.

Russia and Turkey were also added to the watch list, which is a category below RSF's top "Enemies of the internet", the countries it considers the 12 worst web freedom violators. These include Saudi Arabia, Burma, China, North Korea, Iran and Vietnam.

A senior manager of US internet giant Google, David Drummond, said there was an "alarming trend" of government interference in online freedom, not only in countries that are judged to have poor human rights records. The Australian case "is an example of where benign intentions can result in the spectre of true censorship".

After the announcement, RSF put Australia and South Korea on its list of countries "under surveillance" in its "Internet Enemies" report.

Kiwi commandos check out of Afghanistan after "great success"

New Zealand's 35-troop Special Air Service unit's 2.5-year mission in Afghanistan is over.



U.S. and New Zealand soldiers, left, lower a New Zealand flag at a NATO base in Bamiyan, Afghanistan. New Zealand troops, including special forces, have served in Afghanistan since shortly after the U.S. invasion in 2001. Photo: Reuters (from <http://battleland.blogs.time.com>)

The unit officially turned over its responsibilities in Kabul in April to Norwegian special forces. According to Defence Minister Johathan Coleman, its mission has been a great success despite the death of two elite soldiers.

Some SAS members' roles in Kabul have been to battle insurgent and suicide bomber networks. Others help train the Afghan police crisis response units in counter-terrorism.

The NZ Labour Party and the Greens have been critical of the deployment of the SAS, which the National-led government sent back for a fourth mission in 2009 after the former Labour government had brought them home.

Dr Coleman said despite the deaths of Corp Doug Grant, who was shot by the Taliban while trying to free hostages at the British Counsel offices, and Lance-Corp Leon Smith, who was shot by the Taliban while trying to secure a compound, the SAS had "performed fantastically... I hesitate to use the word relief, but at the end of a long deployment, it's good to get all the guys back and to know that they've done a great job".

New Zealand forces played their parts countering terrorism in the past decade. "They have been caught up ... in things like the Bali bombings, 9/11 and the tube bombings in London."

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president and honorary secretary-treasurer of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; Honorary lieutenant colonel of the 78th Fraser Highlanders and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.

remember

members of our club

Farewell, Cathy Briggs

We were saddened to hear that former DUCW member Cathy Briggs has passed away from cancer. Cathy and her son Tyler, and her husband Haig, were active and enthusiastic members of the Club for several years before moving back to New Zealand. Several of our members stayed in contact with Cathy and Tyler, and kept us updated on her health battles. We will remember you, Cathy.

Farewell, Max Katz

Sadly, DUCW member Max Katz, who joined as for our ANZAC Day commemoration, passed away the day after the event. Several of us at the event had the chance to chat with Max, which made it all the more sad to hear the news that he had passed away so soon after. Sincere condolences to Max's family and friends.

It's just cricket!

Those of you at the recent ANZAC event might remember meeting Aussie exchange teacher Jude McCudden: "It was great to meet Australians living in this city." Something interesting in Jude's email caught my interest:

"I opened a blind in my music room the other day to see a Canadian junior high teacher trying to teach students how to play cricket! They are using a very basic plastic cricket set – the type we might use on a beach. Got me thinking how good it would be for the students at Stanley Knowles Ecole to have a good cricket set, especially as some of the students are Punjabe Indian."

Jude thought that someone in the Club might have a good cricket set that they would be willing to donate to the school to enhance the kids' activities. If you do, or if you have any ideas along these lines, please contact me at info@downunderclub.mb.ca or call 228-9959.

Get your Rugby fix!

If you haven't checked this out and you need more rugby, then visit www.watchliverugby.tv for all the news, fixtures, and results for all events of rugby played worldwide.

funnybusiness

down under humour - courtesy the brown ale

More Things You Can Do with Beer (Proof that beer is the greatest substance ever invented.)

Joe Kita, Men's Health [Mar 16, 2007, men.msn.com]

STEAM CLAMS OR MUSSELS — Fill a large steamer pot with equal parts water and beer, then bring to a boil. Steam the little mollusks until their shells open. Couldn't be simpler. The beer imparts a nice flavour.

BOIL SHRIMP — Open three 12-ounce bottles of Yuengling Premium or a comparable mild pilsner and pour them into a large soup pot. Wait for the beer to go flat (about 2 hours), then add 1/4 cup Old Bay Seasoning and 2 tsp ground turmeric (to turn the shrimp a rich yellow). Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, then cook for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, rinse 2 pounds of extra-large raw shrimp in cold water and drain. Add them to the pot and stir. Cover and cook for 5 minutes, no more. Quickly remove the shrimp using a large slotted spoon. Serve immediately with cocktail sauce and, you guessed it, more beer. This same recipe makes great lobster, but cook it for 12 to 15 minutes.

KILL SLUGS — Gather a few empty salsa jars (or similar wide-mouth containers) and fill them a third of the way with cheap beer. Then bury them about 15 feet from your garden, girlfriend, or whatever you're trying to protect. Make sure the rims are almost level with the soil surface. For some reason, slugs love beer. They'll find the traps, drop in, and drown. Do this in the evening, let them party all night, and give them an honorable burial in the morning.

Stay tuned. Beer Bread and a few more to come in the next issue ...

bottomfivesites

some favourite links to follow

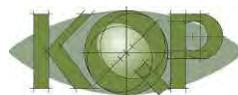
dinnerinthesky.ca the ultimate dining experience

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dN-bN0mCG4&feature=related

"The Last Saskatchewan Pirate" by the Arrogant Worms
iparklikeanass.com just don't end up here!

gizmo.do/upgrading_electronics know when and what to upgrade

markmalkoff.com comedian, writer, filmmaker



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The electronic version of this newsletter typically contains extra pages of content (in colour!), and can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services.

The *Southern Yarn* is published by the Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc. (DUCW). The views and opinions expressed by contributors to this publication are not endorsed by, nor do they necessarily reflect those of, the members of the DUCW. The DUCW and the Editor of *The Southern Yarn* do not accept any responsibility for the content or accuracy of information or websites contained in this publication. Articles may be republished with permission of the Editor.

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The Southern Yarn

June 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

June

downundercalendar
2012

details on page 3

JUNE

Morning at The Zoo

Saturday June 16, 8:50 AM

Assiniboine Park Zoo

enter by the South Gate,

meet at 8:50 am

ONLY TWO SPOTS LEFT! Once again, we are invited to take a 'behind the scenes' tour of our ever expanding and changing zoo.

Curator Tim Sinclair-Smith will be our guide as we look, listen and learn. Again, we are limited to 20 people, and there are only TWO SPOTS LEFT. So, call Lynley at 275-7631

TODAY. Admission is a donation (suggested minimum \$10 individual, \$20 per family) that will be used to provide for an animal group at the Zoo.

JULY

Saturday July 14, 2:30 pm

Pool Party and Potluck

57 D'Arcy Drive

The Club will provide burger and buns, but it is a potluck so please bring side dishes and desserts. Let Lynley know you are coming by calling her at **275-7631** or **943-3775**.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 11

Golf Tournament

More details to come. But if you are interested and want to get in now, contact

Peter at **237-1805** or

pjbmunn@hotmail.com.

RSVP

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

the down under club of winnipeg inc.
Station Main, PO Box 1655
Winnipeg Manitoba Canada R3C 2Z6
telephone: 1-204-832-4405
email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca
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Clockwise: Queen Elizabeth II wowed by the size of her portrait. Photo: Sean Kilpatrick, Canadian Press. Australian PM Julia Gillard and opposition Leader Tony Abbott. Photo: Andrew Taylor. Members of Chemo Savvy. Photo: Katie Nicholson, CBC.

Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee

It might have seemed that the festivities were too far away from us to even think about, but we had some strong connections to the celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee for Queen Elizabeth II.

That the portrait of the Queen was done by a Canadian artist wasn't too much of a surprise, but it was a bit of a stretch. The monarch, who stands 5' 4" in real life, took a moment to admire the new portrait of herself before speaking directly to artist Phil Richards.

"It's changed quite a bit since I last saw it," she said.

"Yes," he replied. "It went from six inches to [six feet two inches]."

The Queen's affection for Canada is well known, and she has visited here several times during her reign, the most recent tour in 2010. PM Stephen Harper summed up the sentiment of a nation: "This portrait represents the appreciation of all Canadians for sixty years of outstanding service to our country and the Commonwealth."

As well, there was the Maori crew on the River Thames as part of the launch of a 1,000 ships (pp. 4 and 5). Thrilling and beautiful. And down south, the town of Blenheim, New Zealand, was one of the first in the Commonwealth to light a beacon to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation,

accompanied by a hearty rendition of *God Save The Queen*.

The occasion even managed to bring together the Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard and opposition Leader Tony Abbott to jointly light a ceremonial beacon marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at Parliament House in Canberra.

Locally, Manitoba Lt.-Gov. Philip Lee and wife Anita Lee were part of a 20-vessel flotilla that left the Royal Manitoba Yacht Club on Sunday afternoon, while members of Chemo Savvy, a Winnipeg-based dragon boat team consisting of breast cancer survivors, paddled to the Queen Elizabeth Bridge.

And then there was the special gift... (p. 2).

Whether you support the idea of the monarchy or not, there is little denying that the pomp and ceremony was spectacular to behold. And as part of the Commonwealth, we extend out best wishes and say, Happy 60th year, Your Majesty!

Advertise in The Southern Yarn

Contact Jenny (228-9959) 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.

editorially yours

Jenny Gates



Back in Australia, I remember going outside on a hot, summer's morning to fish ladybirds out of our pool. For some reason, they often landed there and always seemed to have trouble getting out again. What I loved most was scooping them up on my hand and then watching as they cleared themselves for takeoff.

Each "lady" walked to the tip of the nearest finger where they stood for about a minute, presumably to dry out a bit before getting started, or maybe because they were tired after staying afloat all night. Then they cleaned their antennae, one at a time, before starting on their legs, one at a time, one side at a time. Finally they opened their wing covers and spread out their gossamer wings to let them dry – again, one at a time – before folding them neatly away from view.

Then, they would stand there for another minute, more or less, before flying home – or so the poem goes.

I love ladybirds – in part because they are beautifully decorated, and also because of the superstition that ladybirds (or ladybugs as they are also known) are lucky. A remnant thought from my childhood.

This month's issue of the *Yarn* celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (p. 1), introduces us to the Hinrichsen family (p. 6), and updates us on the Commonwealth (p. 7). There is also some news from home (pp. 4 and 5), and the final installment of the many uses of beer (p. 8).

And be sure to check out page 3 with info on our upcoming events. The zoo event has two spots left for anyone who would like to come along, and we are hoping for spectacular weather for the pool party and the golf. Please make a date to join us this summer.

Now, take this issue outside and read it in the cool of the evening. Fingers crossed a ladybird will visit you there and bring you a little luck of your own!

Summer has finally arrived so I have a time honoured piece of advice to pass on to you, 'Don't forget your sunscreen and hat if you are outside working or playing.'

See you at the Zoo.

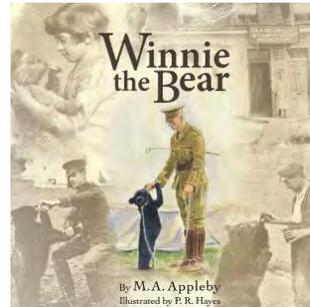
president's ramblings

Terry Roberts



"Winnie the Bear" strikes gold for local author

We all know the story of Winnie the Pooh, but few of us know the real story behind the real bear behind those famous stories. Thanks to local author Mary Anne Appleby, all has been revealed.



Appleby recently won a gold medal for her book *Winnie the Bear* at the Independent Publishers Book Awards in the Canada West, Best Regional Non Fiction category. An international competition, Appleby recently attended the award ceremony in New York where she received much acclaim for her work.

Appleby also sent a signed copy of her book to the Queen for her Diamond Jubilee!

A true story, *Winnie the Bear* is the biography of a Canadian black bear named after the city of Winnipeg and adopted by Lieutenant Harry Colebourn, a kind veterinarian, who was en route overseas at the beginning of World War I. Colebourn nurtured the young cub at training camps in Valcartier, Quebec and on the Salisbury Plains.

Appleby takes us through Winnie and Harry's journey and through the story of her research, all the more fascinating for her family's connection to Harry Colebourn. Apple-

by's insights into the remarkable chain of events in Winnie the Bear's life reveal the bear's truly inspirational role in the creation of A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh books.

"An act of kindness – the adoption of a small bear cub – by a man predisposed to such acts was a catalyst for many

remarkable stories. Winnie provided a welcome distraction as a mascot for the Canadian troops. Her personality caught the attention of the British people during a time of conflict and great uncertainty, and her calm temperament led a young boy to her. Winnie's unique characteristics and benevolent manner triggered the imagination of that boy and his father, and helped launch one of the most loved characters in fiction." – excerpt from *Winnie the Bear*

The closing editor on this book was DUCW member Jenny Gates. In Appleby's words, "If I could make a speech [at the awards night] I'd be saying how I couldn't have done it without you. Totally true – you made this fabulous book happen. I would be working on draft 807 if your clear, brilliant editing hadn't had a go (or 80 gos) at it!" Gee, thanks, Mary Anne!

Winnie the Bear is available at www.winniebear.com or McNally Robinson.

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(meat pies can be cool, too)

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all things social in the club

What's up next ...

JUNE

Morning at The Zoo *Saturday June 16, 8:50 am*

Assiniboine Park Zoo, enter by the South Gate
ONLY TWO SPOTS LEFT!
Once again, we are invited to take a 'behind the scenes' tour of our ever expanding and changing zoo. Curator Tim Sinclair-Smith will be our guide as we look, listen and learn. Again, we are limited to 20 people, and there are only 2 SPOTS LEFT. So, call Lynley at 275-7631 TODAY. Plan to stay around after the event to visit more of your favourite animal friends – on your own time and your own schedule. Admission is a donation (suggested minimum \$10 individual, \$20 per family) that will be used to provide for an animal group at the Zoo.

JULY

Saturday July 14, 2:30 pm *Pool Party AND Potluck*

57 D'Arcy Drive

Who doesn't love a day relaxing by the pool with friends and a lovely cool drink?! The Club will provide burgers and buns, but it is a potluck so please bring side dishes and desserts. Let Lynley know you are coming by calling her at 275-7631 or 943-3775.

AUGUST

Saturday August 11 *Golf Tournament*

More details to come. But if you are interested and want to get in now, contact Peter at 237-1805 or pjbmun@hotmai.com.

Also on the agenda ...

OCTOBER formal dinner

NOVEMBER AGM and Club Officer Elections

DECEMBER Christmas Party

LAMINGTONS!

The Vernon family reported spying delicious lamingtons at the St Norwood Farmers' Market (www.stnorbertfarmers-market.ca). Thanks for the tip, Rob! And you can also get them at the High Tea Bakery (www.highteabakery.com) and by special order at Molly's Meat Pies (see ad on p. 2). Mmm, mmm, mmm!



thebooknook

what your mates say you ought to read

True Blue Tucker

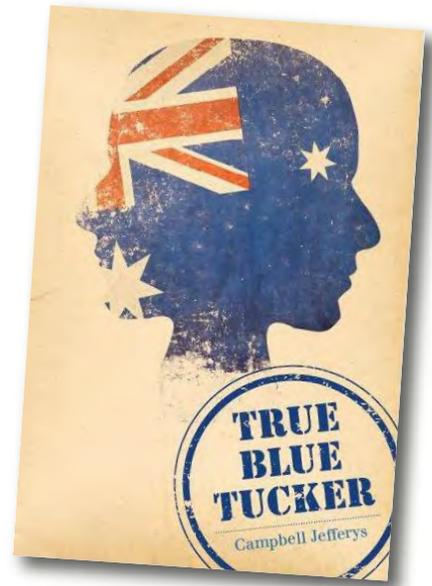
Campbell Jefferys

Thanks to Jason Webb (Downunder Travel Calgary), here is a book you might want to consider reading. "This book is well worthwhile telling your membership about. I'm about halfway through and it really is a fantastic read for any Aussies, especially expat Aussies. I am thoroughly enjoying this book and can relate to their story in a number of ways."

Published in February 18, 2012, *True Blue Tucker* is about two men who go in search of the real Australia, and find it in a bar in Munich. But what will they do with it now they've found it?

Australia. What comes to mind when you see or hear this word? Guys in khaki shorts jumping into crocodile-infested waters. Long, white sandy beaches. Shrimps on barbecues. Athletes and actors. "Really? Mel Gibson is Australian?" Surfer boys and pin-up girls. Cuddly koalas that aren't really bears. Come on. There has to be more to Australia than that.

There is. Much more. *True Blue Tucker* is the story of Darius and Humphrey, two friends who go looking for the real Australia, a journey that takes them to Australia's north-west, Canada's ski hills, London's damp streets and Munich's bars. Along the way, they learn about themselves, about their country and about what the world thinks of Australians. Ambitiously and misguidedly,



they set about changing the stereotype, by opening an Aussie bar in Munich that tells the real history of Australia. It's out with the inflatable crocodiles and in with information about stolen Aboriginal children; out with Paul Hogan and in with Pauline Hanson; and there's convict stew on the menu instead of kangaroo burgers.

No other work of fiction tackles the topic of Australian identity, history and society quite like *True Blue Tucker*. What does it mean to be Australian? Read this book to find out.

Order now as an ebook at: www.amazon.com/True-Blue-Tucker-ebook/dp/B007B23GA6/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1333562059&sr=8-2 or find it in a book store near you.

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Lauren Cross enjoys a treat on toast.
Photo: theherald.com.au.

Long live Vegemite

[May 10, 2012, Wall Street Journal, courtesy Charlie Powell] Introduced in 1923 as a way of using yeast extract that is a byproduct of beer brewing, Vegemite is Australia's best known snack – as Australian as beer and the barbie. Recent reinventions – iSnack 2.0 and My First Vegemite – might have fallen flat, but Vegemite's strong flavour offers a uniquely Australian gastronomic opportunity. Chase Kojima, the San Francisco-born chef at Sydney's Soko Restaurant, pairs Moreton Bay bugs – a type of flathead lobster – with burnt butter mayonnaise, passion-fruit jelly, and Vegemite croutons. "After experimenting with it in my cooking, I can now appreciate the flavour."



Emma Watkins — the new yellow Wiggle!

Wiggles shake-up

[May 17, 2012] Emma Watkins, a 20-year-old back-up dancer for the Wiggles, will become the group's first female member, as part of a major line-up change. She will be the new yellow Wiggle alongside two other performers – Lachlan Gillespie and Simon Pryce – who together have replaced three other Wig-

gles. Only the Blue Wiggle, Anthony Field, will remain. Described as the "new generation" of performers, the current line-up will first embark on a Celebration Tour to Singapore, Britain, US, Canada and New Zealand, and then head home for their final Australian tour. "Jeff, Murray and Greg will hand over the purple, red and yellow skivvies to a new generation of performers before taking on backstage creative roles."



The Queen with her husband, Prince Phillip. Photo: www.royal.gov.uk

The Queen's big party

[June 4, 2012] More than one thousand boats sailed down the Thames in a flotilla tribute to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Queen wore white. The Duchess of Cambridge wore red. And the weather wore grey – grey skies, grey river, and an unceasing grey drizzle of rain. But it did not dampen anyone's spirits. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip watched the proceedings for almost two hours, with the Queen wrapping herself against the cold, using her upholstered throne as a windbreak, and not sitting down once, despite her 86 years. The Queen is the world's longest reigning living queen.

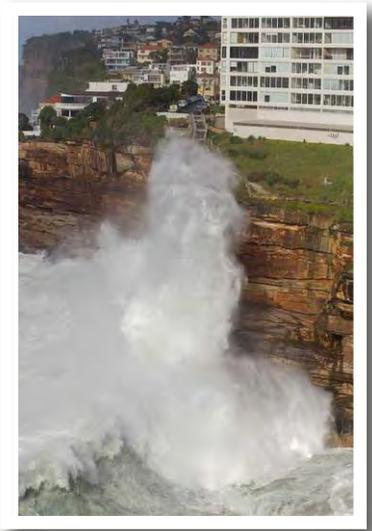


Flying foxes leave the Sydney Botanic Gardens. Photo: Lee Besford.

Bats given their marching orders

[June 4, 2012] The Royal Botanic Gardens has launched its attempt to evict flying foxes from their roosts among its heritage-listed trees. After five years of planning, legal chal-

lenges, and protests from conservationists, the operation began shortly after sunset. At 5.21pm today, a cacophony of percussion noises could be heard from within the gardens, and within five minutes of the wake-up call, hundreds of bats were circling above the gardens. The hope is that the grey-headed flying fox will disappear into the Sydney night skies and never return. "The relocation strategy is based on the successful relocation of the colony at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne." The bats' roosting is blamed for the loss of 28 trees and 30 palms, including some irreplaceable heritage species. A further 60 plants are on the critical list. The attempt was carefully planned to ensure the flying foxes are not disturbed during pregnancy, when the young are being born, and when mothers are carrying young.



A massive swell pounds the coastline at Vaucluse. Photo: Wolter Peters.

Seriously angry waves

[June 6, 2012] "Seriously angry" waves up to 13 metres were battering the beaches as Sydney recovered from a night of wild weather. "This pulse of swell is triggering waves more than six feet along the entire NSW coast." NSW State Emergency Service spokesman Phil Campbell said crews were still mopping up after the strong winds and rain. Sand was blown on to the promenade at Bondi Beach, and at least one shop there lost its roof.

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Kermadec Trench is home to unusual crabs, worms and lobsters. Photo: Niwa.

Creatures from the deep

[May 31, 2012] Hairy crabs, fanged worms and midget lobsters are the latest lifeforms dredged up by scientists exploring the sea volcanoes of the Kermadec Ridge. A three-week New Zealand expedition has returned with thousands of specimens, including deep-sea stalked barnacles that resemble “a stretched neck” and fearsome angler fish with deadly arrays of teeth. The species, some new to science, were found between 700m and 1500m down into the abyss, living near the hydrothermal vents of the underwater volcanoes. “These animals are adapted to the specific combination of depth, temperature and chemical composition of the venting fluids.”



Not over yet. Photo: NZ Herald.

Quakes rattle North and South Island

[June 2, 2012] Hopefully the worst of it is over, but the North and South Islands are still shaking. Shortly after midnight, the Manawatu region was shaken by a magnitude 4.1 quake, 10km north of Whanganui at a depth of 90km. Later in the morning, Christchurch was rocked by a magnitude 4.3 quake that hit just after 9:00 am. It struck at a depth of 9km and was centred 10km east of the city. There were no reports of damage.



Sir Peter Robert Jackson. Photo: Getty Images.

Sir Peter Jackson honoured

[June 4, 2012] Two years after arising as New Zealand’s first “lord of film”, Sir Peter Jack-

son has joined the ranks of our highest order. In a special step by the Queen to mark her Diamond Jubilee, the Oscar-winning director of *The Lord of The Rings* and *King Kong* was made an Additional Member of the Order of New Zealand in today’s Queen’s Birthday honours. “I would like to thank the people of New Zealand for so readily and enthusiastically cheering on a kid with a camera from Pukerua Bay. It stills feels like a hobby. I haven’t got a real job. I’m stoked.” A citation for his latest honour states Sir Peter’s work has not only brought him international fame, but has also widely promoted New Zealand as a “significant” location for filmmaking and a tourist destination.



The crew practised on the Thames before the big royal outing. Photo: Toi Maori.

Waka joins 1,000 vessels for Jubilee

[June 4, 2012] A team of young waka paddlers proudly represented New Zealand as they made their way down the River Thames in London during the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations. As one of more than 1,000 vessels to take part in the flotilla, Te Hono Ki Aotearoa was one of three craft from NZ that took part in the four-hour procession. The others were a whaling boat and a clinker-built boat. “It’s about honouring the Queen and acknowledging our partnership through the Treaty.”



Snow in Christchurch in June! Photo: Susanna La Rue.

Wild windy weather

[June 6, 2012] Up to 8,000 properties had power cut earlier today by thumping storms in regions around Christchurch, where up to 50cm of snow had fallen. Air New Zealand

cancelled flights, the University of Canterbury closed, and St John Ambulance was busy attending to people who fell from ladders and roofs. “We urge everyone to be careful when clearing roofs, drains and satellite dishes of snow.” [Ed: *I wonder if all the snow made Susanna and Keith homesick for Winnipeg?*] Elsewhere, alpine passes were shut, inland routes blocked, schools closed, roofs were lifted, trees were destroyed, and power lines were down.



Photo: Thinkstock (NZH)

Kiwi scientists developing ‘groundbreaking’ drug

[June 7, 2012] Kiwi scientists from Auckland are part of a team developing a groundbreaking drug that will stop the body rejecting bone marrow transplants in cancer patients. After more than a decade of research, the team has discovered that a protein called perforin works to rid the body of cancerous cells, but can cause bone marrow transplant patients to reject the treatment. The Kiwi scientists have identified a number of synthetic ‘drug-like’ compounds that block perforin’s function in the test tube, taking the team a step closer to prolonging the survival of bone marrow stem cells. The research team is now working on developing a safe drug for humans to protect transplanted bone marrow stem cells from the protein.

Lucky kitty

[June 11, 2012] Bekkum is one cool cat. Hit by a car moving at up to 100km/h, the Burmese became wedged behind the grille and travelled for 35km plastered across the front of the car. But despite his dangerous hitch-hike, Bekkum came out unscathed and remarkably unfazed. Rescuers with bolt-cutters took half an hour to free him. The car that gave Bekkum a lift had no idea until they stopped to use the toilet at Alexandra, and heard what sounded like a cat meowing in the front of their car. “This was a big adventure.” Meow!

Grant and Alanna Hinrichsen

When talking to the Hinrichsens, one quickly senses the influence of sport and athletics on the family.

Grant was born in Sydney, NSW, attending primary school in Penrith South and high school at Newington College. He then went on to Sydney University, studying agricultural commerce, leading to a Bachelor of Business degree. Throughout school and university, Grant was involved in a number of sports, primarily rowing, rugby and swimming.

His first job was on the trading floor of the Sydney Futures Exchange for two years, then in the marketing department for the next five years.

In 2000, he met Alanna in Sydney and moved to Winnipeg the next year. He wasn't allowed to work for 18 months while awaiting permanent residency, but then he started with CFG Futures Brokers. He is now with Scotia McLeod as a commodities broker, trading mostly agricultural commodities (grains, oilseeds and livestock) and currency futures, as well as various other commodities from metals to energy and financial contracts in interest rates and stock indexes.

His client base is primarily farmers, cattle producers, grain companies, and those wanting to hedge the value of the Canadian dollar. He played rugby with the Winnipeg Wasps from 2001 to 2008. Grant and Alanna joined the DUCW in 2001, but drifted away from the Club with the onset of work and children. They re-joined when a friend of Peter Debenham mentioned the DUCW to Grant earlier this year.

Alanna Yakiwchuk was born in Winnipeg, attending Immaculate Heart of Mary and high school at Garden City Collegiate. At the University of Manitoba, she earned Bachelor of Physical Education and Bachelor of Education degrees. She worked as a teacher for five years, a Sport Consultant with Sport Manitoba, and a Project Coordinator for Sport at the 1999 Pan American Games.

Alanna was a sprinter with the U of M and National track and field teams. She represented Canada for many years, winning a silver medal at the 1993 World Indoor Cham-



Alanna was working for the Olympic Games in Sydney when she met Grant. They now live in Winnipeg with their two kids, Kaitlyn and Luke.

pionships and a bronze medal at the 1994 Commonwealth Games. Working as a Project Manager for Sport Competition at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, she met Grant. They were married in Winnipeg in 2001. At the time, she was General Manager for Coaching Manitoba and is currently a Project Manager for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

The Hinrichsens have two children. Kaitlyn will be eight in August and goes to Emer-

son Elementary School. She enjoys swimming, soccer, dance, gymnastics, ice skating, playing the piano, and she loves reading.

Luke just turned six and is in kindergarten, also at Emerson, and is looking forward to starting Grade 1 in the fall. He enjoys swimming, soccer, gymnastics, golf, art and craft, and playing his guitar.

Like I said, there's lots of athleticism here!

Gordon Keatch

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Commonwealth dropping the ball on human rights

The Commonwealth has sloughed off its commitment to defending human rights, according to a leaked document in which the secretary general tells his staff it is not their job to speak out against abuses by the 54 member states.

David Cameron and the foreign secretary, William Hague, have both said they will put new emphasis on the Commonwealth in Britain's foreign policy. But the organization's London-based institutions, the secretariat and the charitable foundation, are both in turmoil, riven by disputes over their purpose and direction, and internal wrangles over the treatment of staff.

The Guardian in London, which broke the story, said following so soon after the well-publicized shortcomings in India's preparations for the Commonwealth Games, the latest revelations about dysfunction within the secretariat and foundation are likely to add to questions over what the Commonwealth is for.

The most threatening internal rupture is over human rights. Staff at the secretariat were furious when the secretary general, Kamalesh Sharma, remained silent over a series of abuses by member states in recent years:

- When the Gambian president, Yahya Jammeh, threatened to behead homosexuals in 2008;
- When Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels were accused of widespread atrocities at the end of the civil war; and
- When a Malawi court in May sentenced a gay couple to jail for being homosexual.

There were other breaches, and the secretary general pointedly ignored all calls urging him to at least express concern.

In response to complaints from employees, the secretary general's office told his staff that the institution had no obligation to pronounce on the issue.

"The secretariat ... has no explicitly defined mandate to speak publicly on human rights," Sharma's office told senior staff. "The expectation is that the secretary general will exercise his good offices as appropriate for the complaint and not that he will pronounce on them."

Editor wants Gambia's repressive media laws under international scrutiny

The editor of *The Gambia Voice* wants the Commonwealth to formally examine its nation's "repressive laws" curtailing media freedom, and a series of reporter slayings.

Musa Sheriff told British reporter Trevor Grundy it was "very difficult to operate a newspaper in this country".

"Radio stations are not broadcasting news other than sports. They're only doing advertisements. They are not doing any political broadcasting because of the challenges they face from the (Jammeh) government."

Asked what could best be done to help journalists in their fight for freedom in Gambia, Sheriff said in the off-the-record interview: "The Commonwealth needs to put pressure on Gambia to respect fundamental human rights and, if possible, investigate all the human rights abuses since 1994 [when Jammeh came to power after an army coup; he was re-elected this year]. We journalists are living in fear and an investigation should not be limited at the Commonwealth level. There should be a fact-finding team to come in and investigate and talk to the victims because there are a lot of victims in this country."



Eddie Mabo. Photo: [http://www.adcq.qld.gov.au/newsletter/no21\(May05\)/Mabo.htm](http://www.adcq.qld.gov.au/newsletter/no21(May05)/Mabo.htm)

Australia promises to beef up indigenous rights and land claims

Australia's aboriginal peoples have reason to be a little more optimistic these days.

Attorney-General Nicola Roxon has promised to imminently strengthen the language of the Native Titles Act. And it comes at a time when the indigenous society is celebrating Mabo Day's 20th anniversary.

Eddie Mabo is a Torres Strait islander whose case two decades ago for the return of his land on Murray Island was upheld by the High Court. It was a landmark case, a break-

through in Australian human rights law, and there's more to come.

The new material India still cooks with a lot of dung

In all the gush about India's development as the world's biggest democracy – better incomes, more cars, better housing – there are still some unsettling stats that give us pause.

Out of a recent census of 247.7 million households comes the word that 66% of families still cook with dried dung, firewood or crop straw, and 50% of them have to leave their residences to get water.

But in ownership of material toys, the march to modernity is still in step with the developed world, and catching up. Twenty per cent of urban households have a computer, as do 5% of rural households, and ownership of cell phones outnumbers most countries in the world.

International market access prime hope for small-nation Commonwealth

Access to international markets presents the best opportunities for poor countries of the Commonwealth to trade their way out of poverty.

And this is the strategy the Secretariat is pursuing to make it happen.

At the forefront of its plan is advocacy of a forward-looking international trading regime that is open, free and development oriented.

It is doing this by helping developing member countries improve their skills and understand trading rules and regulations. It also helps them strengthen their effectiveness in participation in WTO negotiations, providing policy advice, research, advocacy, and other forms of technical assistance.

An example of its instruments for this plan is the Hub and Spokes Project. The project especially promotes the effective participation of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries in international trade negotiations and works to strengthen their capacity to formulate and implement trade policies. It does this through placing trade experts in selected ACP countries to provide this expertise.

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.

remember

members of our club

Treats and eats from NZ

Kiwi Corner Dairy is having a promotion. Simply enter the coupon code "KZ7" at checkout and you get 20% discount off all products purchased. Will be available for a limited time only at kiwicornerdairy.com/20percentdiscount.

Berry good advice

[courtesy Lou Savisky and Helene DeKezel]

Berries are delicious, but they're also kind of delicate. Raspberries in particular seem like they can mold before you even get them home from the market. There's nothing more tragic than paying \$4 for a pint of local raspberries, only to look in the fridge the next day and find fuzzy mold growing on their insides.

With fresh berries just starting to hit farmers markets, here's a tip on how to keep them that way longer: *Wash them with vinegar!*

When you get your berries home, prepare a mixture of one part vinegar (white or apple cider probably works best) and ten parts water. Dump the berries into the mixture and swirl around. Drain, rinse if you want (though the mixture is so diluted you can't taste the vinegar), and pop in the fridge. The vinegar kills any mold spores and other bacteria that might be on the surface of the fruit, and voila! Raspberries will last a week or more, and strawberries go almost two weeks without getting moldy and soft.

So go forth and stock up on those pricey little gems, knowing they'll stay fresh as long as it takes you to eat them.

bottomfivesites

some favourite links to follow

radiotimemachine.herokuapp.com — for music buffs

www.apartmenttherapy.com/categories/apartment — looking for reno ideas?

www.tv.com/news/whats-renewed-whats-cancelled-and-whats-still-in-between-2012-edition-28304 — for TV buffs

www.aplacetolovedogs.com — photos, stories and more

www.abc.net.au/news/2012-05-23/signs-from-around-australia/4025898 — signs of home

funnybusiness

down under humour - courtesy the brown ale

Last Things You Can Do with Beer

Final proof that beer is the greatest substance ever invented. Joe Kita, Men's Health [Mar 16, 2007, men.msn.com]

BAKE BEER BREAD

Here's a healthful, foolproof recipe for high-fibre beer bread from the book *Tailoring Your Taste*, by nutritionist Linda Omichinski.

Ingredients:

- 2 ¼ c all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp each sugar, baking powder
- ¼ c ground flaxseed
- 1 tsp each salt, dried basil, dried rosemary, thyme
- ½ c unsalted sunflower seeds
- 1 Tbsp cooking oil
- 12 oz beer, at room temperature

Mix all the dry ingredients. Add oil and beer. Stir until dough is just mixed. Put dough in a greased 9x5x3-inch loaf pan. Bake at 375°F for 45 minutes or until nicely browned. Remove from oven and let bread cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove from pan to cool some more.

COOK RICE

Rinse 1 cup jasmine rice in water. Do it twice more, then drain well. Next, dump the rice into a medium-size pot and add 12 ounces of beer. (A nut-brown ale works well.) Bring the mixture to a boil, turn the heat to low, and cover the pot. Simmer for 20 minutes, then remove from the stove and cool for an additional 10 minutes. The rice won't be lumpy, and it'll have a nuttier flavour – just like you after you eat it.

And last but not least ...

TAME A WILD HAIR

A few drops of beer is sticky enough to subdue any sudden uprising on your eyebrow or scalp that you spot in a barroom mirror. Just wet your index finger and demurely slick it down. Think of it as Miller mousse.

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The electronic version of this newsletter typically contains extra pages of content (in colour!), and can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services.

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www.downunderclub.mb.ca

The Southern Yarn

July 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

July

downundercalendar
2012

details on page 3

JULY

**Saturday July 14, 2:30 pm
Pool Party and Potluck**

57 D'Arcy Drive

The Club will provide burger and buns, but it is a potluck so please bring side dishes and desserts. Let Lynley know you are coming by calling her at **275-7631** or **943-3775**.

AUGUST

**Saturday, August 11
Golf Tournament**

On Saturday August 11th, the DUCW Golf Tournament is being played at the Players Course, 2695 Inkster Boulevard. We have enjoyed the Players Course in previous tournaments, as it enables us to have the choice of playing either 9 holes or 18 holes of golf. Come on out and enjoy yourself with other members and friends in this light-hearted event, where no one takes their golf too seriously.

DETAILS: Tee off time for 18 holes is 1pm; Tee off time for 9 holes is 3pm. Cost is \$36 for 18 holes (\$30 for seniors), and for 9 holes is \$20, (and \$17 for seniors). We will make the presentations in the casual eating restaurant straight after the round, and you can order food as you require there. We have had some good response to date, and as there are limited spaces available, please call Peter at **237-1805** if you have not already done so. I will be contacting all participants prior to the tournament to verify tee times, etc. Hope to hear from you shortly, Peter, pjbmunn@hotmail.com.

RSVP

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

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Second time a charm

Ryan and friend Jessica enjoy a special tour at the zoo.

Our second annual day at the zoo was a huge success. We couldn't have asked for a nicer day. The zoo has a new entrance on Roblin Blvd, so with no one getting lost 22 of us set out on a behind the scenes tour with Tim Sinclair-Smith the Director of Zoological Operations. First we took a ride on the tram to visit the baby black bear. We saw firsthand PRT (positive reinforcement training). This is where they are teaching the bear to be friendly with staff members to present a paw or put it behind to get medicinal treatment, where before they would always dart the bear to put it under which isn't great for anyone involved. Then another ride on the tram to the amazing new build of Journey to Churchill. This is a world class facility. Journey to Churchill is the most comprehensive project, aimed at issues related to climate change, polar bears and other northern species. This fully integrated initiative combines elements focused on research, conservation, education and public display to provide a venue that will bring the North to mainstream Canadians while bridging the gap between field research, the conservation world and the general public. Here we all had time to be hands on with many touch screen educational games, and quizzes.

Journey to Churchill will feature polar bears - as well as other species - in three distinctive zones along a fascinating 10-acres of the 80 acre zoo. In each zone, visitors will experience a variety of landscapes and animal viewing areas. Interpretive signage, interactive displays, and audio-visual components will reinforce the key messages of biodiversity, climate change and conservation.

It will be a three-dimensional, four-season, five-sense educational classroom like none other, inviting exploration, challenging thinking and promoting personal action. Journey to Churchill is scheduled to open in 2014 and will be the flagship component of the redeveloped Assiniboine Park Zoo, setting a new international standard for polar bear exhibits world-wide.

We were able to go inside some of the research laboratories and a meeting room/teaching room. So if you or your company is looking for somewhere different to hold a planning or staff meeting, you can arrange to rent one of these rooms. Then off to the room where the polar bears will be housed or caged when they first arrive. Since they don't have any at the moment, we were able to go inside these rooms. We didn't even leave anyone behind for the night.

With a tram ride back to the 2,000 square-foot Butterfly garden with over 500 Monarch, Painted Lady butterflies and another 200 Black Swallow Tails and Red Admirals butterflies, amongst a wide variety of colorful annual and perennial flowers. A must stop if you have never been to it before. Most of us had butterflies land right on us. Then Tim set us free to explore the zoo on our own. Many of us went to see the bird in flight show, which runs every day at 10am, noon and 2 pm. If you have not been to the zoo lately then it is time for you to visit and see all the new developments. All those who attended gave a donation to the zoo which is going toward a portable x-ray machine which will cost \$75,000. Thanks Tim for the behind the scene tour.

Lynley Davidson

editorially yours

guest editor
Charlie Powell



Summer has barely begun and Judy and I have already got some typical summer activities behind us. In May, we had a two week road trip down to Colorado where we caught up with my brother and sister-in-law from Perth visiting their son and his family near Denver. And in June we replaced our old rotting paling-style fence with a neat rustic split-rail cedar one. So I guess now we're free to devote our full attention to swatting mozzies!

What about you? Anything interesting happening this summer? Write or e-mail it in and we'll share it with the Yarn readers. Nothing better than a good yarn while sitting with a cool one in your old rocking chair on the verandah at the cottage under the gum tree by the ocean listening to the footy with your mates while the pet kiwis are scratching around amongst the plum trees.

If you're not doing anything interesting, use your imagination; make something up; a short story; a memory of a past summer; summarize (get it?) a book you've read. We're easily entertained.

Maybe this issue will give you some inspiration. You might see a bit of a theme through some of the content – food-related – that's because food is my line of work, so those are the sort of news bits that drift across my screen. There is also Gordon Keatch's interview with Karen and Cate, our upcoming club activities, Murray Burt's regular Commonwealth commentary, some attempt at humour and the useful info from our valuable sponsors.

Enjoy!

p.s. don't miss the exciting breaking news about Onthophagus and Bubas...

Charlie

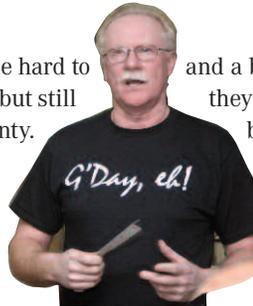
Lawn Bowls

DUCW members and friends have an open invitation to join the recreational West End Lawn Bowlers. Most Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:30pm at Sargent and Wall – weather permitting. Judy and Charlie Powell and Bill Pooley can be found having fun most days. Ph. Pooley: 998-1074

Warm weather Ah! A little hard to work outside at times, but still better than minus twenty.

Had a great time at the zoo on Saturday, many thanks to Tim Sinclair, our Aussie Zoo contact (helps if you know someone) and Lynley Davidson for arranging such a great day, including the weather. Every one enjoyed their time there both young and growing older. Got to see where the new polar exhibit is being built

president's ramblings



and a behind the scenes look at where they will be housed and looked after before being exposed to the public.

We are lucky to have someone of Tim's caliber running things. One up for the Aussie's, eh!

Unfortunately had to leave too soon but will be back to see the Tigers (my personal favourite)

Hope to see you at the next couple of events coming up, and enjoy your summer. Don't forget the sunscreen and drink lots of water.



Phase one of the new Journey to Churchill exhibit at the zoo is explored by DUCW members. The Sinclair-Smith family, right, were our guides.

Missing meat pies?
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What happened ...

The trip to the zoo was a success despite the delay to a new date. See the story on page 1 and the photos on page 2.

What's up next ...

JULY

Pool Party

Saturday July 14, 2:30 pm

57 D'arcy Drive

Who doesn't love a day relaxing by the pool with friends and a lovely cool drink?! The Club will provide burgers and buns, but it is a pot luck so please bring side dishes and desserts. Let Lynley know you are coming by calling her at 275-7631 or 943-3775.

AUGUST

Saturday August 11

Golf Tournament

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We have had some good response to date, and as there are limited spaces available, please call Peter at 237-1805 if you have not already done so. I will be contacting all participants prior to the tournament to verify tee times, etc.

Hope to hear from you shortly,

Peter, 237-1805 or pjbmun@hotmail.com.

OCTOBER

formal dinner

NOVEMBER

AGM and Club Officer Elections

DECEMBER

Christmas Party

Baby-talk: Seeking Australian-English speakers for help with research

Researchers from the Baby Language Lab at the University of Manitoba, Department of Psychology, have contacted the DUCW to assist them in providing Australian-English speakers as test subjects in a study.

They are studying language acquisition in infants.

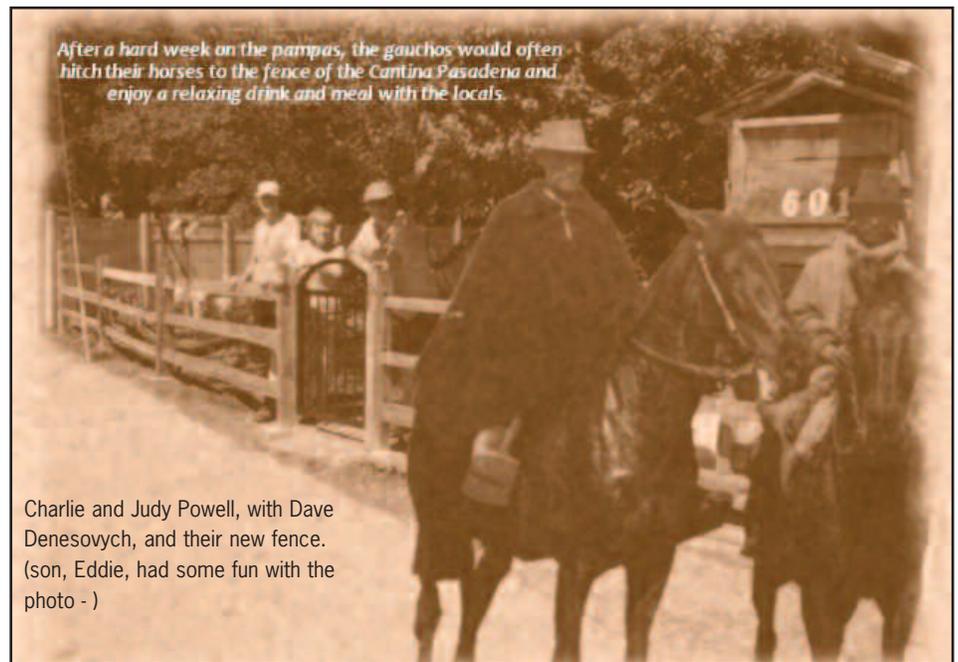
"We will be conducting a study that looks at how infants perceive different dialects of English and need help creating our audio stimuli," says Michelle Donato of the Baby Language Lab. "We are in need of female speakers with English as their first language

who were born and raised in Australia, who have lived in Canada for less than 4 years, and who have only lived in Australia before coming to Canada."

Participation in this study requires one, or two, 2 hour visits to the University of Manitoba Fort Garry Campus to read a list of random words and sentences. The lab can provide \$30.00 for the two hours, and if a second recording is required they would provide another \$30.00.

If you or someone you know fit this criteria, please contact the lab.

Send an e-mail to info@babylanguage-lab.org or call the lab at (204) 474-8798.



After a hard week on the pampas, the gauchos would often hitch their horses to the fence of the Cantina Pasadena and enjoy a relaxing drink and meal with the locals.

Charlie and Judy Powell, with Dave Denesovych, and their new fence. (son, Eddie, had some fun with the photo -)

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Maroons seal seventh series victory

Cooper Cronk's 40-metre field-goal broke New South Wales hearts, sealed a 21-20 win for Queensland and locked in a seventh successive State of Origin series win in a breathless encounter at Lang Park on July 4th. Maroons half-back Cronk bisected the posts four minutes from full-time after a Josh Morris try, converted by Todd Carney, levelled the game for the Blues. "It was hard but that's what State of Origin is all about," victorious skipper Cameron Smith told Grandstand in the wake of the win in his first series at the reins after the retirement of Darren Lockyer.

"Everyone who came here tonight and paid their money to see it will remember it for a long time. It was a great Origin and I think it will go down as one of the classic matches." ABC Grandstand Sport 5th July 2012.



Sea foam surprised Victorian surfers. Check out <http://video.news.com.au/2242679136/All-churned-up>

All foamed up

As king tides and near-cyclonic winds smashed the eastern seaboard last month, surfers were quick to take advantage of the conditions - especially in Victoria.

Granted, not too much imagination was required for those Victorians treated to kilometres of spectacular foam, which left entire beaches looking like gigantic bubble baths.

Wild conditions made surfers happy in Queensland, particularly on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, and stretches of the NSW coast, but the real fun was to be had down south.

Lorne local Alex Cleland and two mates captured the amazing sight (pictured) at the Victorian town's north beach. The heavy foam stretched for about 5km and was metres thick. The spectacle occurred thanks to raw swell agitating the water, a large amount of organic matter, strong south-easterly winds and more than 70mm of recent rain.

Banks give Victorians new way to buy coffee

A bank in Victoria is promoting an iPhone app that will allow people to avoid the coffee queue.

The ordering system, named NoQ ("no queue"), has been trialled in Adelaide over the past 12 months, with more than 15,000 people having downloaded the free app. The app has now been officially launched by Bendigo Bank at the well-known Wholesome Bean Café, near the Bank's Bendigo headquarters.



Adelaide Bank holds a 15% stake in NoQ. Adelaide Bank is also the owner of Bendigo Bank.

The founder of NoQ is Adelaide-based former Adelaide Crows footballer, Brad Moran, who said the innovative app will allow people to avoid queues, save time and enjoy a cash-free purchase.

Mr Moran explained the simplicity of the app. "You just choose what you want to eat or drink, make a secure online payment and then the shop tells you what time to come and pick up your order," he said.

NoQ has already signed up 140 businesses, including coffee, noodle, pizza and florist shops.

NoQ has plans to expand around Australia. Its market research has shown that 70% of Australians make regular online purchases and 40% of those are made outside of normal business hours. A third of small businesses with online ordering generate more than 25% of their gross sales through the internet.

"Introducing NoQ technology to a business where speed and convenience is important not only enhances customer service and satisfaction but also provides a huge competitive advantage," Mr Moran said.

Australian Food News



Eat your (hidden) veggies, kids. <http://healtheries.com.au/the-wiggles.html>

The Wiggles expand from food hints to a food range

The musical group, The Wiggles, which

began in Australia and has become an international phenomenon singing to children around the world, has just released its own food range. The concept is not just a case of clever merchandising but follows a 20-year pattern of encouraging children to eat healthily.

The Wiggles has teamed up with New Zealand health food and supplement manufacturer Healtheries to launch a new range of foods targeting the preschool market.

The range includes meals with "hidden veggies" and products with a focus on a mix of wholegrain ingredients, all-natural colours and flavours, and sensible portion sizes for one- to five-year-old children.

The range is marketed with a "thumbs up" system of labelling, which is a parent and child-friendly form of nutritional "traffic lights": Two Thumbs suggest "everyday" consumption; One Thumb "sometimes"; and No Thumbs indicate "occasional foods".

"The fun form of labelling is also designed to help parents engage their children in conversations about healthy balanced diets," a representative for Healtheries and The Wiggles said.

Accredited Practising Dietician Dr Fiona Pelly is the expert who has designed the "Wiggles' Nutrition Criteria" for children's food, and she wants to ensure that any food product carrying the Wiggles name contributes positively to the nutritional requirements of one to five year olds.

In conjunction with the "Nutritional Criteria", Dr Pelly has also led a team in the development and review of The Wiggles' "Nutrition Guidelines for Children's Foods". These Guidelines stipulate that all products in The Wiggles' food range must contribute to nutrient requirements of young children, meet criteria for saturated and trans fat, and for added sugar and sodium, and be a suitable serve size for young children.

Dr Pelly is also the author of an imminent article, to be published in a peer-reviewed journal about her study titled 'Choice In Young Children: The Influence of The Wiggles'. The article investigates factors influencing food choice for one- to five-year-old children as reported by 12,000 parents and carers.

Dr Pelly said when it comes to fussy toddlers it is important to make every mouthful count. "Parents often only include vegetables at the evening meal, but to ensure an adequate and varied intake, it's important to offer vegetables in snacks and meals throughout the day," Dr Pelly said.

Australian Food News



Photo: www.theboplive.net/2012/07/reports-of-large-shake-felt-in-bay-of.html

Another quake

[Jul 3, 2012] A large earthquake was felt across the North and South Islands. The 7.0 magnitude quake was centred 60 km south-west of Opunake at a depth of 230 kilometres, GNS Science said.

The earthquake was felt across the North Island from Taranaki to Bay of Plenty, down to Wellington and as far south as Canterbury.

The earthquake was heavily felt in Wellington city where many residents took to social media sites to report of a long, rumbling quake.

The Wellington Region Emergency Management Office has said there is no tsunami threat from the earthquake.

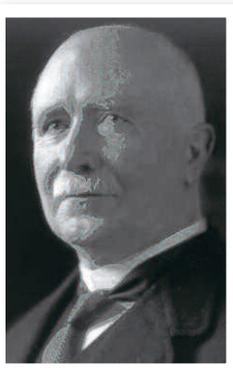
A Fire Service spokesman said there had been no reports of significant damage yet.

"It is at a depth of 257 kms [the initial depth given by GNS], which means we are pretty lucky at the moment."

A small aftershock of magnitude 3.8 struck 15 km east of Christchurch.

100 years ago...

On the 12th July 1912, William Ferguson Massey, often known as Bill Massey or "Farmer Bill" (26 March 1856 - 10 May 1925) became the 19th Prime Minister. He served until 1925,

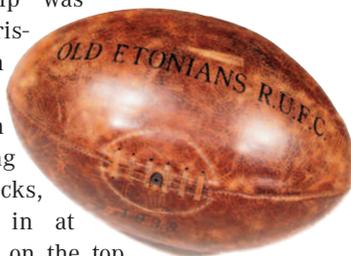


making him the longest serving Prime Minister after Richard Seddon. He was the founder of the Reform Party.

Google NZ reveals football more popular than rugby (apnz.co.nz)

Football's more popular than rugby in New Zealand - at least among Google users.

The latest figures from the internet search engine show the Euro 2012 football championship was the fastest rising search term used by Kiwis in June, beating the All Blacks, who came in at number five on the top 10.



Matariki - the Maori New Year - also captivated many, coming in at number three, and KFC's headline-grabbing Chicken Pie may be why the company took 10th place.

TOP 10 FASTEST RISING SEARCHES, NZ June 2012

1. Euro 2012
2. Facebook login
3. Matariki
4. Prometheus
5. All Blacks
6. Christchurch weather
7. Kiwibank login
8. Christchurch airport
9. Kathmandu
10. KFC

and bronze medals at the 2012 Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity, which went from 17-23 June in Cannes, France.

DB's advertising campaign, "The Wine is Over", marketed their Export Dry product as New Zealand's first premium dry beer, launched in 1987. The campaign noted that the brand had become just one of many over the years, but emphasised that it was the first beer to "save men from wine".

The campaign appears to have been based on market research showing that DB Export Dry's target market, mainly young men, generally didn't like wine, but sometimes felt that certain social situations required them to drink it. For instance, the need to appear sophisticated at weddings, work functions and restaurants encouraged the target market to drink wine, rather than uncouth beer. Australian Food News

The DB campaign accordingly took the angle that Export Dry was a premium beer that men could drink comfortably on any occasion, without appearing unsophisticated. It included a television commercial, titled "The Great Wine Depression", and print and online advertising. As part of the campaign, DB even released a special-edition wine that, when purchased, gave consumers a \$5 discount on Export Dry beer.

Australian Food News

Suburban walk: A Waikato River wander

The hectic pace of Auckland seems a million miles away as I idly watch a lone duck disappear around a bend in the river.

I'm in Hamilton to rediscover the walk that meanders through the city beside the Waikato River. I've spent many happy hours strolling here, and it's a pleasure to retrace these steps with family.

Thick trees lining a steep bank separate the path from the road above as we pass under the Fairfield Bridge towards Hamilton's northern suburbs. It's a crisp, sunny day and fellow walkers are out in force.

Read on with this article at http://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/news/article.cfm?c_id=7&objectid=10818382



New NZ beer ad campaign wins medals at Cannes

A New Zealand beer brand has won silver

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Karen Teese and Cate Harrington

Karen was born in Bairnsdale, Victoria in the Gippsland area, east of Melbourne and went to school there where her family still reside. In 1974 she moved to Melbourne for an Arts & Advertising course at the Melbourne College of Decoration. Two years later she left to become a silk screen printer until 1977. With a penchant for fine line drawing, she got a job at Australian Aerial Mapping as a Cartographic Tracer until 1985 where she was employed to trace and scribe maps at varying scales for various Government Departments.

Following that, the next three years were spent contract mapping for the Australian Army and the Victorian Lands Department, still using traditional mapping methods. For the past 23 years however, Karen has been working at Melway Publishing mapping and researching the Melway Street Directory. (I always wondered who did those!). It was at Melway that the electronic age caught up with traditional mapping techniques and the computer finally became the tool of choice for Cartographers.

In 2009 she came to Winnipeg to see the polar bears at Churchill as a part of a North American trip. It was then that she met Cate, and so, back and forth between Oz and Canada for visits. Presently she is awaiting the paperwork for her Permanent Residency status. Unable to work for wages until then, Karen has volunteered at Victoria General Hospital and Deer Lodge Centre in Winnipeg and is volunteering for a few days with Habitat for Humanity. She is already a budding CFL enthusiast, an Aussie Rules Footy fan, (Melbourne Demons), golf and gym occasionally, likes music, dabbles on her guitar and drum set and is into drawing and art and loves to travel. It was actually in Botswana that Karen met Cate's sister Linda which is eventually how Cate and Karen met. Karen and Cate live near Lori Blande, our one-time membership chair who insisted on her joining the DUCW.

Cate Harrington was born in Montréal and later came to Winnipeg when her father



was transferred here. She works with the Federal Government's Public Health Agency here. Cate also enjoys music, golf, gardening, travelling and good Aussie wines and has

developed a love of Aussie rules, particularly the Collingwood Football Club. Karen and Cate now live in the River Heights area.

Gordon Keatch

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In quake-shattered NZ, they're calling it the bad news spread

The shortage of that breakfast toast taste-teaser, Marmite, has given it a new international identity. Sadly, it's the lack of product that is driving the message.

The distinctive Kiwi version of the savoury product (its rival is the Australian Vegemite) is (or was) made in Papanui by Sanitarium, New Zealand.

Shelf stocks have thinned ever since Christchurch's devastating earthquakes began. First the large jars disappeared. Then the medium and smalls were gone within hours, to be replaced with a company note: "Sorry, it's an earthquake problem. Supplies limited due to plant damage."

Now Pierre van Heerden, the general manager, says that additional quake damage makes it unlikely Marmite will be back much before November.

Market watchers say NZ supermarkets are recording a 30% increase in sales of rivals Vegemite, Promite and other yeast-extract spreads.

The Christchurch Press reports that Sanitarium tried to make Marmite at a factory in South Africa early this year, but management said: "It wasn't a happy (business) experience."

Prostitute story prompts appeal for Aussie media watchdog with teeth

A call is out in Australia for stronger privacy laws and more government regulation to raise media standards of reporting.

Joel Fitzgibbon, the Australian government's chief whip, said motivation came after a TV channel had knowingly broadcast falsities involving a prostitute made against Labor MP Craig Thomson. This occurred despite the woman's recanting of her own story days before the broadcast.

Labor MPs damned the tabloid mentality of current affairs shows and called for stricter regulation of the media, The

Guardian reported.

Following on the heels of Britain's Leveson inquiry, which is investigating the News of the World phone-hacking scandal in Britain involving high profile Australians, the item stirred extensive anti-media comment.

This sort of journalism is not regarded as the right path for Australia. So two key initiatives are in the pipeline:

1. Establishment of a tort of privacy, and,
2. Greater government regulation of media.

"And I think this gives weight to the government pursuing those initiatives with a great deal of enthusiasm," Fitzgibbon told ABC Radio National.

IPI's acting deputy director, Anthony Mills, said: "Government response to any perceived ethical transgression by the media should never be a move toward statutory regulation, which ultimately narrows the scope for investigative/watchdog journalism – the pillar of any healthy democracy. We are very concerned at this development and urge the Australian government to preserve the country's position as a bastion for freedom of media."

The Thomson affair highlights the great divide between media professionals, politicians and academics in ongoing debates on media ethics in the country.

Uganda adjusts its tough treatment of the media, promises probes

The police in Kampala are seriously probing cases of state agency violence against journalists, including two slayings of other non-state actors in events that happened last year.

The change of attitude comes days after the Inspector General of Police, Lt. Gen. Kale Kayihura, apologized very publicly to the media over the excesses committed against them by police officers.

It is also an initiative that is worthy of copying by many African Commonwealth states.

The Inspector General was unqualified in his assurances. "I apologize for whatever has happened I am going to re-open and investigate all of the 107 cases," he told a one-day meeting between the police leadership and media. It was convened to harmonize an impasse between the two institutions.

Police have since set up a department called The Press Unit which is to receive and investigate all complaints from the media. However, its full mandate is still unknown to HRNJ-Uganda.

Fiji regime amends threat after banning coverage of opposition personalities

Despite the regime's extension of Fiji TV's 12-year broadcast licence for six more months, a past threat of cancellation is still making waves.

And critics maintain privately that government interference in media is blatant censorship.

Fiji's Commonwealth status is in suspension after the 2006 military coup, its fourth in 20 years, but its leaders have promised restoration of democratic rule in the next year or so.

Last month the regime issued the shutdown threat if coverage of "opposition" personalities continued.

The most bitter condemnation has come from Pacific Freedom Forum (PFF) which leveled criticisms from its offices in Rarotonga in the Cook Islands and from Papua, New Guinea.

Fiji's journalists are already gagged by the Media Decree and media leaders often are called into 'private' meetings with the Attorney General on a whim whenever he takes exception to news content.

The order last month not to broadcast remarks or pictures covers a list of high-profile "opposition" people.

The directive came from Fiji's Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, just days after a Fiji TV news bulletin carried interviews with the deposed prime minister, Laisenia Qarase, and the Fiji Labour party leader, Mahendra Chaudhry. Both were responding to an earlier story in which constitution commissioner, Taufa Vakatale, had blamed politicians of the past for what she said was Fiji's current state.

The editorial crackdown on what is perceived as 'anti-regime' coverage had put the station on notice that all content in June will be 'monitored' and will influence whether or not Fiji TV's 12-year license will be renewed.

"PFF condemns this demoralizing and shameful action by the regime forcing journalists to ditch their ethics and professional integrity when they report for duty, and calls for its immediate retraction," says PFF co-chair Titi Gabi, of Papua New Guinea.

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.

Well Bread Company

In the 18th century, when virtually all bread was baked in the home, the average life expectancy was less than 50 years; infant mortality rates were unacceptably high; many women died in childbirth; and diseases such as typhoid, yellow fever, and influenza ravaged whole nations. The link is clear - now that most bread baking is isolated to purpose built factories life has improved drastically. But other dangers persist.....

1. More than 98 percent of convicted criminals are bread users.
2. Fully HALF of all children who grow up in bread consuming households score below average on standardized tests.
3. More than 90 percent of violent crimes are committed within 24 hours of eating bread.
4. Bread is made from a substance called "dough." It has been proven that as little as 500g of dough can be used to suffocate a mouse. The average Australian eats more bread than that in one month!
5. Bread has been proven to be addictive. Subjects deprived of bread and given only water to eat begged for bread after as little as two days.
6. Bread has also been proven to be poisonous. In a similar study to the one above, rats deprived of water and fed only bread were dead within a week.
7. Bread is often a "gateway" food item, leading the user to "harder" items such as butter, jam and peanut paste.
8. Bread has been proven to absorb water. Place a slice of bread in water and watch it act like a sponge. The human body is more than 90 percent water, it follows that eating bread could lead to your body being dangerously dehydrated!
9. Newborn babies can choke on bread.
10. Bread is baked at temperatures as high as 200 degrees Celsius! That kind of heat can kill an adult in less than one minute.
11. A key step in the production of bread actually encourages the growth of micro organisms. Micro organisms are responsible for numerous diseases that at best make people sick and at worst kill people.
12. Not only do micro organisms grow during the production of bread they also produce carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a poison to humans and responsible for global warming. Bread can not only asphyxiate you but will trash the planet at the same time.
13. Most Australian bread eaters are utterly unable to distinguish between significant scientific fact and meaningless statistical babbling. (The Australian Institute of Food Science & Technology Incorporated, Queensland Branch Newsletter, June 2012)

and now for something completely different...



New Dung Beetle Improves Cattle Pastures

AUSTRALIA - Two new species of European dung beetles chosen for their spring frenzy and voracious appetite have arrived in Australia to improve cattle pastures. Collected in the south of France, *Onthophagus vacca* and *Bubas bubalus* are the first new species of dung beetles imported in more than 20 years through a project led by CSIRO and supported by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA).

"The beetles have just produced their first eggs in our quarantine facility," according to CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences Research Leader, Dr Jane Wright. "All going well, the offspring of these dung beetles will successfully bury the spring dung and improve pasture productivity in cattle producing regions of southern Australia," Dr Wright said.

"If the new beetles can become widely established the main benefit will be the head start they give to pasture productivity from early spring," said MLA Manager Natural Resource Management, Cameron Allan. Some related benefits are likely to be improved soil aeration and root depth, less water run-off and nutrient loss, soil and greenhouse gas improvements from more nitrogen and carbon being stored for longer in the soil and the reduction in fly breeding sites and the numbers of bush flies.

TheCattleSite News Desk, June 19, 2012

bottomtwosites

some favourite links to follow

- htwins.net/scale2/ — feeling small, or too big for your boots? This will show you your place in the overall scheme of things
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU8DDYz68kM — predator and prey

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The electronic version of this newsletter typically contains extra pages of content (in colour!), and can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services.

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The Southern Yarn

August 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

August

downundercalendar

details on page 3

SEPTEMBER

*Friday September 28, 7:00 pm
DUCW Club night*

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Stay tuned for exciting details about this event!

OCTOBER

Formal dinner

NOVEMBER

AGM and Club Officer Elections

DECEMBER

Christmas Party

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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.



The games they played

Wow! What a wonderful two weeks it has been. The Olympic Games in London have been the focus for many of us as athletes did their best from start to finish, organisers kept their fingers crossed, volunteers put in countless hours, and famous folk were spotted among the hundreds of thousands of spectators.

As we watched from our sofas – well, except for Thibaut Lauwers who went there to see for himself (see p. 8) – the medals were handed out, the winners jumped and cheered, the losers cried, reviewed, and planned for 2016, and victory by medal count meandered between total medals won, total gold medals won, and total won per capita,

much to the discussion of the social network.

Aussies and Kiwis did themselves and their countries proud, wherever they came in their events. Win or lose, we posted about them on Facebook, tweeted about them on Twitter, and talked about them over tea, coffee, beer, or whatever else whetted our whistle. Sometimes, we even cheered on our opposition and joined with our cross-Tasman compatriots to celebrate success.

Any way you look at it, I think we can agree that they all done good. And as you slip back into the mundaneness of the post-Olympic world, enjoy these few reflections of our athletes doing their thing. To each of them, we say, "Thanks for the memories!"

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Contact Jenny (204-228-9959) for all our new rates and sizes. Send your submission by email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.

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How about that Charlie Powell, eh?! Takes over the editorship of the July *Yarn* and churns out a little ripper!

BIG THANKS to Charlie for doing a great job on the issue, and for assuming the task with a minimum of fuss and bother. Well done, Mr Powell!

Thanks also to Lynley Davidson for her wonderful write-up on the zoo event, and once again to Tim Sinclair-Smith for making the event happen and showing everyone all that our Zoo has to offer. Yes, Tim, people are still talking about it!

Thanks also to our usual contributors who got their submissions to Charlie in time so he could get the text to Brian who then did the design in time for him and Charlie to Skype over the final edits, so Brian could send the issue to the printers (from his holiday spot in Alberta) and Gordon could pick them up and put them all in the mail. Sweet!

Hopefully you are enjoying this incredible summer. Yes, I spent most of it in Oz ... where it was cold ... ish ... and rainy, but my spies keep me informed. And August is shaping up to be pretty great as well, if our recent golf tournament is anything to go by.

Since you're probably all busy outside these days, we've made this issue a six pager. Take a gander at a celebration of the Olympics (p. 1), an always riveting piece from our president (p. 2), reviews and previews of our events (p. 3), news from home (p. 4), an update on the Commonwealth (p. 5), and a few bits and pieces (p. 6) to round out the issue.

Relax, sit back and enjoy August in all her glory. See you in September!

Jenny

Greetings, to the great month of August. August used to be Sextilis until it was renamed Augustus by the Romans in honour of Augustus Caesar in 8 BC.

August is still summer, but generally not quite as hot. Perfect weather for working outside.

What makes this month great also is the performances of all the New Zealand and Australian Olympic athletes. New Zealand had one of its best ever tallies finishing in 16th place with 5 gold medals and 13 in total. Australia came in 10th place with 7 gold and 35 in total. Congratulations to all the athletes from both countries, they are all winners in our books. Although ...



president's
ramblings
Terry Roberts

Sorry, I have to say it, G00000000000000000000 KIWIS.

What can I say – I am a Kiwi.

Yesterday (Saturday) was a great day for a pleasant walk in the park, interrupted by a stick and a

white/yellow ball. Yes, it was the annual golf tournament at Players Golf Course. We all had fun, and in the perfect afternoon sunshine, either being frustrated for 9 holes or 18, some of us had a little more fun than others. Golfers will understand. Non golfers, you are missing something, or maybe not.

Continue having a great summer and enjoy the great weather.

Jerry



Trivia for Aussie tourists

Special points to anyone who can identify where this Australian restaurant is located. It is called the Corroboree cafe restaurant bar. Here's a clue: it is nowhere near Australia, and you might not even be speaking English there.

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What happened ...



Ideal weather for our annual club Pool Party. Photos and text: Judy and Charlie Powell.

A perfect day at the pool

July 14 – a hot, sunny Saturday – saw 17 adults and 8 children gathering at Lynley and Jason’s home for a terrific afternoon of swimming, conversation and relaxation in and around their pool. With plenty of sun – and shade for those who desired it – it turned out to be perfect for everyone.

The pool was so inviting, tempting most folk to take a dip, especially the children who could hardly be kept out. We all admired the garden, including the unique delphiniums and the prolific grapevine. We wonder how many DUCW-ers will be tempted to begin growing a grapevine now that we can see it can be done successfully in Winnipeg!

Jason expertly did the barbecuing (hot dogs, burgers and buns provided by the Club), and we all provided and shared side dishes and desserts.



Thanks again to Lynley, Jason and Ryan for sharing their home, and thanks to all the members who came to make it such an enjoyable day.



Cart chatter with Terry Roberts, Tim Sinclair-Smith and Jason Davidson. Photo Charlie Powell. Back at the clubhouse. Photo by Grant Hinrichsen.

AUGUST **Saturday August 11** **Golf Tournament**

Cloud cover and a cool breeze were ideal conditions for a summer afternoon of golf. Sixteen members and families came out to the Players Course for the annual DUCW Golf Tournament on Saturday August 11.

Jason Davidson, playing 18 holes with Terry Roberts, Tim Sinclair-Smith and Peter Munn, managed to hit his ball the least number of times – only 87. Peter Munn landed closest to the pin on the 3rd; and Peter Debenham, playing 9 holes with son Tim, and Alanna and Grant Hinrichsen, scored the longest drive on the 4th.

Other teams were Bob Cunningham, daughter Tracey and grandson Brendan, and Bill Pooley – 18 holes; Chris and Jodi Somers and Judy and Charlie Powell – 9 holes.

Too bad there wasn’t a prize for “best bounce out of the woods” – it would have been a tough call between Jodi and Chris Somers. Jodi’s first tee shot appeared to be gone, then a lucky ricochet off a stump and



she’s back on the fairway! Not to be outdone, on the next hole hubby Chris’s ball went even further into the trees, only to suddenly come out to a good lie. Must have been a friendly squirrel!

Judy was proud to take home the Bradman prize!

A big thanks to Peter Munn for organizing the event and the Club for the prizes (T-shirts and other Folklorama leftovers).

Charlie Powell

What’s up next ...

AUGUST **Lawn Bowls**

DUCW members and friends have an open invitation to join the recreational West End Lawn Bowlers. Most Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, 6:30 pm at Sargent and Wall – weather permitting, Judy and Charlie Powell and Bill Pooley can be found having fun most days. For more info, contact Pooley at 204-998-1074.

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Darrell Lea closes half its stores

[Aug 2, 2012] Almost 200 Darrell Lea staff have lost their jobs as the troubled chocolate-maker shuts about half of its stores. More than 30 of the Australian company-owned shops have closed, while a number of franchises will keep operating. The closures come three weeks after the family-owned confectioner announced it was going into voluntary administration. Sixty-nine company-owned and franchised stores in Australia, New Zealand and the US will continue trading as normal for now, while administrators deal with offers to purchase the business. Darrell Lea has been controlled by the Lea family since founder Harry Lea began making sweets in 1917. [Ed.: Darrell Lea is actually in the USA?]



Feathered fury ... a cyclist being strafed by a magpie. Photo: Joe Armao.

Duck!

[Aug 9, 2012] Remember magpies? Well, in case you were wondering, only 12% of magpies swoop, and 99% of them are male. More than half only attack pedestrians, 29% will have a go at walkers and cyclists, and 8% are exclusive haters of bike riders. Got your own story about the maggies you'd like to share?

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



The beautiful McMurdo Sound. Photo: www.shackletoncentenary.org.

Rescue in Antarctica

[Aug 8, 2012, nbcnews.com, courtesy Charlie Powell] Weather conditions permitting, a medical team is heading to Antarctica to rescue an ailing American expeditioner. The National Science Foundation had asked for help on the emergency mission. Established in 1955, McMurdo Station is the largest Antarctic station, and lies about 3,864 km south of Christchurch, New Zealand. Meanwhile, a 58-year-old New Hampshire woman working at the South Pole for the past year was also flown out recently after falling ill. Tough place!



A visiting delegation from Western Samoa in 1955. Photo: www.parliament.nz.

Fifty years of Friendship Treaty

[July 31, 2012, www.parliament.nz, courtesy of Charlie Powell] An impressive wooden 10-slot tray stands on the table in the centre of the Chamber of the House of Representatives as a memento of the close relationship between New Zealand and Samoa. The tray was presented on September 8, 1955, by a visiting delegation from what was then the Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa. And this year marks 50 years since the Treaty of Friendship between New Zealand and Samoa was signed on August 1, 1962. Samoa is the only nation with which New Zealand enjoys a Treaty of Friendship. Nice!



New Zealand dormant volcano erupts after a century

Mount goes boom!

[Aug 6, 2012, BBC News, courtesy Miriam Fenster] A New Zealand volcano dormant for more than a century has erupted, sending up ash clouds, disrupting flights and closing roads. When Mount Tongariro, one of three volcanoes in the centre of the North Island, became active, there were reports of loud explosions, spewing rocks and steam. The 1,978m peak is in a national park popular with hikers. No casualties or damage have been reported after the eruption. Witnesses described a dramatic scene as the volcano erupted. "I saw this beautiful, big cloud and I thought: 'Gee that looks like a volcanic plume'. It was quite impressive." Mount Tongariro last erupted 115 years ago, and scientists said they did not yet know if this eruption was a single event or if it signalled the start of more activity.



Orca researcher Ingrid Visser outside her home and work base. Photo: Richard Robinson.

Sour victory for orca watcher

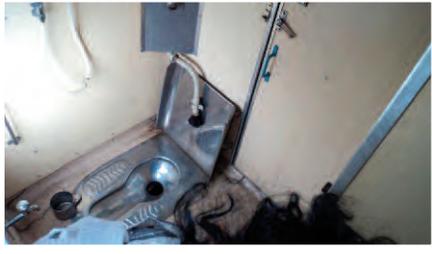
[Aug 11, 2012] A dispute over a marine researcher's building project is having dire consequences. Ingrid Visser is close to bankruptcy and faces losing her home and orca research centre on the Tutukaka coast, despite emerging the winner in a long-running dispute with her building contractor. "Now I'm stuck with a building that I can't afford to get repaired, that I can't afford to get finished, that I can't get insured. And I can't sell it because it's on my dad's land." Sadly, Ingrid's life's work, the Orca Research Trust that protects orca through conservation, education and scientific research, could be in jeopardy.

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Indian minister admits railway is world's largest open toilet

India formally announced last month it is launching a multi-million-dollar cleanup of its sanitary systems with special emphasis on the railways, which a top minister has described as “the world’s largest open toilet.”

When Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh told a meeting in New Delhi that 130 million households are without a latrine, he said it is a matter of “great shame, anguish, sorrow, and actually anger.”

That’s 60 percent of the global volume of open defecation, he said.

The *Times of India* reported that the proposal is to spend 1.5 billion rupees (\$28 million) to provide 100,000 bio-toilets to villages across India in the next two years.

Also set aside is a 5.0 billion rupee project to replace, in the next five years, the open-hole toilets on the 50,000 coaches that ply India’s vast railway network. The investment will be in bio-toilets over the next five years. The system transports 11 million passengers a day.

Aussie aboriginal Olympians seek right to wear their flag at Olympics

According to a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Australian indigenous leaders say the Olympic rules that outlaw Aboriginal flags at the Games should change, and want the Aussie Olympic Committee to lobby for the longstanding protocol banning it to be overturned.

Dual Olympian, 110-metre hurdler Kyle Vander Kuyp, former world champion boxer Anthony Mundine, and former politician and activist Phil Cleary led the voices supporting boxer Damien Hooper who breached International Olympic Committee rules by wearing a T-shirt with the Aboriginal flag on it to competition in London.

Cleary said recognizing both flags at the games would “affirm our real history and be a major act of reconciliation.”

Falklands to poll citizens on relations with Argentina

Government of the Falkland says it will hold a referendum to settle issue of the group’s “political status” so far as its populace is concerned.

This is in a bid to end the continuing dispute with Argentina over the islands’ sovereignty.

The vote will be held in the first half of 2013.

The call comes amid increasing tensions between Britain and Argentina over the disputed territory, which the South American country claims and calls Las Malvinas.

Britain has controlled the islands since 1833 – except for 74 days of occupation in 1982 – but Argentina claims it inherited rights to them from Spain upon its declaration of independence in 1863.

Gavin Short, chairman of the islands’ Legislative Assembly, said the hope is a referendum will send a message to the Argentinian president that islanders want to remain British.

“I have no doubt that the people of the Falklands wish for the islands to remain a self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom.”

NZ looks to pay raises to stem huge military exodus

An attitude survey among members of the New Zealand Armed Forces last month showed morale has plummeted to its lowest level in years – and more than 40 per cent of personnel surveyed said they intended to leave the force.

The departure trend followed the Government’s plan to make 600 positions civilian roles as part of a drive to save \$400-million.

The Government wouldn’t want to be faced with the prospect of a 22.3 per cent attrition rate in the Navy “year on year”, so Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman is considering handing out to the forces a first pay rise in four years.

Defence Force Chief Lt-Gen Rhys Jones revealed the armed services, particularly the navy, was losing staff to the lucrative Australian mining industry, with some companies “actively recruiting” in the Devonport area near the Auckland naval base. The force was faced with competing offers of more than double military staff salary packages, he said.

The auditor-general’s office said force numbers had fallen from 14,577 to 13,667 in the past two years.

White and foreign businesses fearful of Zimbabwe takeover

A Zimbabwean minister loyal to President Robert Mugabe said that white- and foreign-owned businesses must hand over a controlling stake to black citizens within a year.

The prime minister, Morgan Tsvangirai, disagreed, saying that the government had neither discussed nor endorsed the move.

A recent study of tobacco production, which under white farmers was once the most lucrative crop in the country, is recovering from near nothing to profitable under new small farm operation by blacks.

NZ pie business scores gold medal in Britain

A craving for a taste of home inspired Gore expat Jon Liddicoat to set up an award-winning kiwi-style pie business in the United Kingdom.

Mr Liddicoat, who has lived in Newcastle-upon-Tyne since 2006, set up the NZ Gourmet Pie Company last year because he said British pies were rubbish.

And now he is proud his product has scored 93 out of 100 in competition to win the prestigious gold award coveted by Britain’s bakers, butchers and pie makers.

“I guess you could say that just like rugby, the Poms invented pies but were rubbish at doing it,” he said.

He said conditions for setting up business in Britain were excellent for his circumstances. Helpfulness everywhere. His edge in pies was the fact the Brits use pastry that is primarily short crust and crunchy – a horrible eating experience,” he said.

“As every Kiwi knows, a pie should be full of meat, with a nice light pastry, and that you should be able to eat it out of your hand.” The Brits’ problem is they make a pie full of gravy, he said.

The long-term goal for his business is to get into supermarkets, thus the pies are made from all British ingredients to open more doors to the Brit market, Mr Liddicoat said.

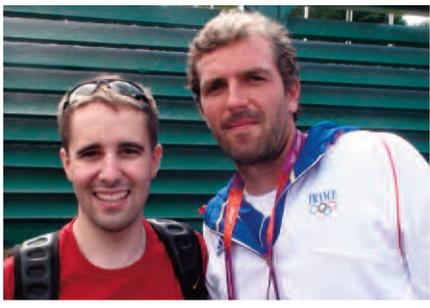
Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.

remember

about or of interest to members of our club

What's the wine-ing about?!

Fine Wines Manitoba is pleased to announce the arrival of the Torlesse Waipara Pinot Noir 2010 (MLCC ID# 13648 - retail: \$21.98) from the stunning Canterbury region on the South Island of New Zealand. According to spokesperson Doug Reichel, "I've tasted some fine NZ Pinot Noirs, but this one probably delivers more at the price point than most. I commend it to you for your discerning wine-guzzling members." (Okay, I added those last three words ... editor's prerogative. But it sure sounds like a winner!)



Our Man at the Olympics

DUCW member Thibaut Lauwers (top left) with Julien Benneteau, a professional French tennis player. At the London Olympics at Wimbledon, Court 18. In the 2012 Olympics in London, Benneteau captured the bronze medal in doubles with Richard Gasquet.

And Thibaut even got up close and personal with the gold medal winner of the singles, Brit Andy Murray (below).



Get out your calendars, mates!

SEPTEMBER

Friday September 28, 7:00 pm
Club night

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Stay tuned for exciting details about this event!

OCTOBER -

Formal Dinner

Restaurant to be selected. Suggestions?

NOVEMBER -

AGM and Club Officer Elections

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

DECEMBER -

Christmas Party

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

bottomfivesites

some favourite links to follow

dreambooks.com — book reviews by critics to guide your next read

www.time.com — Time Magazine online

www.attackofthecute.com — ooh aahs of the animal world

www.stnorbertfarmersmarket.ca — lots of our members shop there

www.washingtonpost.com/sports/olympics/australian-kiwis-win-gold-to-leave-british-feeling-down-under-in-olympic-sailing/2012/08/11/9939677e-e376-11e1-89f7-76e23a982d06_story.html — love it!

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The electronic version of this newsletter typically contains extra pages of content (in colour!), and can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services.

The *Southern Yarn* is published by the Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc. (DUCW). The views and opinions expressed by contributors to this publication are not endorsed by, nor do they necessarily reflect those of, the members of the DUCW. The DUCW and the Editor of *The Southern Yarn* do not accept any responsibility for the content or accuracy of information or websites contained in this publication. Articles may be republished with permission of the Editor.

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info@downunderclub.mb.ca

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The Southern Yarn

September 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

September downundercalendar 2012

details on page 3

SEPTEMBER

*Friday September 28, 7:00 pm
SPECIAL Club night and
Brainstorming Session*

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to get together and share our ideas on how we would like to see the DUCW move forward. Wine, beer and chips, camaraderie and conversation. All the details in the main article on this page.

OCTOBER

*Saturday October 27, 6:00 pm
Formal dinner*

Bailey's Restaurant (tentative)

We are still ironing out the details, but you'll want to reserve now anyway. RSVP to social@downunderclub.mb.ca or call Peter at 204-237-1805. Full menu options in the October newsletter.

NOVEMBER

*Friday November 30, 7:00 pm
AGM and Club Officer Elections*

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

DECEMBER

*Sunday December 9, 4:00 pm
Christmas Party*

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

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.



We're hoping for a crowd at the end of THIS month for our special event. See you there!

Calling everyone to our SPECIAL September event!

Coming up on **Friday September 28** at 7:00 pm at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre is a fun and important Club social night.

Fun because it will be the perfect opportunity to enjoy a glass of wine, a beer or two, some delicious chips, and lots of great company.

Important because we plan on having a major brainstorming session to discuss the future direction of the DUCW and think about how we can move forward and ensure our longevity.

With our Annual General Meeting just around the corner, and with some surprising positions up for grabs on the executive, we thought September the perfect time to start the discussion. And we also thought that some of you might have a few ideas and/or want to be part of the executive, but either haven't had the opportunity, don't think you'll have the time, or aren't sure what a position actually involves.

A few things are already in the works. Recently, we made changes to the status of and access to our advertisers, decided to update and redesign the website, and there are several positions on the executive that have been vacant for quite a while. At a recent exec meeting, we decided that what we might need is to review club operations and gener-

ally restructure activities and the newsletter. But to do that, we need your help and your input.

We also thought it would be a great way for some of our newer members, and those of you who haven't been out to a meeting or an event in a while, to take part in the discussion. So, it would be great if you could take the time to join us, to bring your ideas and suggestions, and to provide feedback on others' ideas.

Please make a date to join us on **Friday September 28**. The ongoing success of the Club depends on you!

PS If you really can't make it out on **Friday September 28**, but you have some thoughts on events for members, changes to the newsletter, other things we could be doing, or any suggestions whatsoever, then please feel free to email them to info@downunderclub.mb.ca or phone 204-228-9959 so we can include them in the conversation.

Advertise in The Southern Yarn

Contact Jenny (204-228-9959) 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 down under club of winnipeg inc.
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email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca
web: www.downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Jenny Gates



I don't know about you, but I'm enjoying September a lot more than I remember. Cool mornings, warm and sunny days, comfortable evenings. And the leaves are just starting to change, so it's all good in my books.

As you have noted from the front page, we are having a special meeting for our next event, a Club night at the SCC. This is going to be a great opportunity to talk about what you would like to see in the Club as we move forward, and perhaps think about a possible role on the executive in the upcoming elections, or some other way you can be more involved in the DUCW. I encourage everyone to join us and take part in the discussion and the fun.

And speaking of fun, from the few people I have spoken to in the Club, seems a lot was going on this summer. For example, two of our members were recently married – Karen Teese and Cate Harrington (profiled in July's newsletter). Congrats to them both! Gerry Gordon and I were invited to play at their wedding, although we provided a slightly different take on some old favourites to add a personal and particularly Aussie flavour to their big day.

This issue of the newsletter has all the usual suspects – info on upcoming events (p. 3), news from home (pp. 4 and 5), an opportunity to get to know the McNairs (p. 6), an update on the Commonwealth (p. 7), a great book from NZ (p. 8), and, the highlight of these pages, some words from our president (p. 2).

There is also a fond farewell to one of our longest advertisers, Molly's Meat Pies (p. 3).

As always, remember to support those who support us – Kiwi Installations (p. 4), Downunder Travel (p. 6), and The Billabong (p. 4).

Enjoy the falling autumn leaves!

president's ramblings

Terry Roberts



Much to my disappointment, the nights are getting cooler, and the days, though still nice, are shorter and not quite as warm. The leaves are changing and the kids are back in school, a sure sign summer is drawing to a close.

This September 28th at the Scandinavian Centre (upstairs), we are having a meeting / ideas forum on the future and direction the club should be heading in. Much like the summer, our club is coming to a turning point, a seasonal change you might say. The executive board has decided to put this ideas forum on to gauge the interest and involvement level of members of the club and how you would like to see the club go forward.

This year the executive board will

change with the stepping down of two prominent board members with a long association with the board. So it's important that we get your input into how you want to see the club go forward. Do you want the club to continue in its present form or do you think it should change? And if so, how do we get people interested in contributing in the form of board members and event co-ordinators? To keep a club going, it takes some effort on the part of its members, which sometimes can be a challenge.

As you know we have been operating with a limited board this year, which has an impact on the club events and some of the day to day stuff that needs to be done to keep the club going.

So come out to the meeting and have your say.

It's Membership Renewal Time

If you find a copy of the Membership Renewal Notice inside your newsletter this month, then it's time for you to renew your membership with the DUCW. Only those who receive the notice AND have the number 12 on the last line of the mailing label on their envelope need to renew. If you are receiving the newsletter by email notice and your dues are due, you will also get an email asking you to renew, so watch out for that. Anyone attending the AGM in November will need to be a fully paid-up member if they want to vote during the elections or on any other important business that comes up at the meeting. Renew today – at \$10 a single and \$20 a family, it's the best deal around!

Thank you, Jim and Maureen,
for every tasty bite!

Molly's
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Pies



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What's up next ...

SEPTEMBER

Friday September 28, 7:00 pm
SPECIAL Club night and
Brainstorming Session

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

This is going to be a fun and important night for our Club, so please make a date to join us and to bring your ideas, suggestions and comments. All the details are on page 1, and we encourage you to be part of the conversation.

OCTOBER

Saturday October 27, 6:00 pm
Formal Dinner

Bailey's Restaurant (tentative)

Watch the October newsletter for all the details on the always excellent DUCW formal dinner. We look forward to seeing you all.

NOVEMBER

Friday November 30, 7:00 pm
AGM and Club Officer Elections

Please note that every position is up for grabs, so think about how you would like to contribute to the DUCW over the next year or so.

DECEMBER

Christmas Party
Sunday December 9, 4:00 pm

Ho ho ho everyone. It will arrive before you know it, so mark your calendars now.

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 30**, 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 — Media/Communications

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.

Farewell and thanks, Molly's

Although they are technically not going anywhere just yet, the owners of Molly's Meat and Fruit Pies, Maureen and Jim McKeown, are looking to sell their business and move on to bigger and other things. Since they are not sure what the new owners will want to do regarding advertising in our newsletter, Maureen and Jim have decided not to continue advertising with us.

Before we let them go, I thought we could look back at their history with the DUCW. Gordon got the lowdown on that when he provided a write-up of the McKeowns in the December 2007 issue of *The Southern Yarn*.

"For our first Folklorama Pavilion in 1993, they won a contract to supply meat pies and stew. Things went so well that they ended up making all the food for us at subsequent pavilions. The relationship with the McKeowns became quite personal over the years, and they have [long] been DUCW members, supporting us at many of our functions."

For the record, Molly's have advertised in our newsletter on an irregular basis from late 1993 to May 2000. In June 2000, we moved to the new newsletter format, and Molly's not only got

a new ad design, but also customised text in every issue thereafter.

It's been an amazing relationship and we are sorry to see it end. Thanks, Maureen and Jim, for being generous supporters of the Club, loyal members, and great friends. All the best in your next endeavour!



Jim and Maureen taking care of business at Molly's.
 Photo: Winnipeg Free Press

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www.billabongbarandbistro.com

source: Sydney Morning Herald, unless noted.

Which would you pair up? Photo: www.extremecanadiancoupons.com



A perfect vintage

[July/Aug 2012, Food in Canada, courtesy Charlie Powell] To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Miss Vickie's kettle-cooked potato chips from PepsiCo Foods Canada is partnering with Australian winery Rosemount Estate to introduce a marketing campaign pairing wine with chips and focusing on new, perhaps unexpected, ways to enjoy the different flavour varieties. The brand will round out its campaign with a chance for consumers to win one of three trips to Australia. Suggestions to date include original with shiraz-cabernet; sea salt and malt vinegar chips with pinot grigio; sweet chili and sour cream chips with pinot noir; balsamic vinegar and sweet onion chips with shiraz; lime and black pepper chips with sauvignon blanc; and jalapeno chips with riesling. Interesting idea.



Mathew Bowers of Queanbeyan enjoys the snow near Corin Forest. Photo: Rohan Thomson.

Canberra shivers through cold blast

[Aug 17, 2012] It might be common here in winter, but not everywhere in Oz sees snow during the chilly months. So it was quite the surprise when rain showers turned to snow showers over the capital city when the snow line momentarily plummeted to under 600m

altitude over Canberra. The short-lived snow shower saw the temperature dip to as low as -4 C. Some residents cheered, many jeered; some peered out windows, while others went for walks. And one declared, "Funny how snow makes winter suck less." Yes indeed!

Photo: organicgoodness.com.au

Australian owned again

[Sept 6, 2012, ausfoodnews.com.au, courtesy Charlie Powell]. A challenge to the Australian icon Vegemite has been mounted, with the national supermarket launch of AussieMite – a 100% Australian owned yeast-based spread. The non-GM, gluten-free premium spread launched nationally in Coles this week, pitting itself against Vegemite, the top-selling savoury spread, which is made by American-based Kraft and found in some 90% of Australian households in a market worth AU\$137M. Some DUCW members might remember our 'Mite taste test a few years back, with samples of Vegemite, AussieMite (delivered to us courtesy of Eddie Powell), OzEmite, Mar-mite, and two others. Not sure about the taste, but it sure is a handsome-looking jar!



Check it out now at aussiemite.com.au.



Matt Cowdrey poses at the medal ceremony after winning the men's 200m individual medley SM9 final to stretch his individual Paralympic gold medal haul to 12. Picture: Getty images.

Here come the champions

[Sept 12, 2012, news.com.au] Australia's most successful Paralympics away team in 16 years will be back on home turf later this week. London proved a successful campaign for the Australians, who captured 85

medals, including 32 gold. The swim team proved outstanding – with 18 gold medals, 7 silver and 12 bronze – and included the exceptional efforts of milestone makers Matt Cowdrey and Jacqui Freney. NSW talent Freney, born with cerebral palsy diplegia, won all eight of her events to become her country's most successful athlete at a single Games. "This is a very young team so there is nice potential here for Rio and beyond." Congratulations to all!

Our Gift to the Zoo

Those who went to the Day at the Zoo back in July made a donation that was then given to the Assiniboine Park Conservancy. This is their letter of thanks! Well done, everyone.

Thank you for the Down Under Club's thoughtful gift in the amount of \$120 toward a new portable x-ray machine.

After a successful first phase, we have recently begun a multi-year plan to redevelop the Assiniboine Park Zoo. With Journey to Churchill as the centerpiece, the Zoo will become a showcase of wildlife from Manitoba and beyond. This redevelopment will put the Zoo on the international stage as a leader in conservation and research, a message that is already evident in the new International Polar Bear Conservation Centre. Watch the exciting progress at www.imagineaplace.ca.

Your support will be listed in relevant Park publications. Every gift to the Assiniboine Park Conservancy helps us to fulfill our mission of enhancing the Assiniboine Park experience for present and future generations. On behalf of the Board of APC, and the thousands of your fellow citizens who visit the Park each year, thank you. We truly appreciate your support.

Thank you so much!

Joan Blight

VP, Resource Development

Assiniboine Park Conservancy

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Veggie love

[Aug 15, 2012, Sideswipe, NZ Herald] It's hard not to love home-grown organic veggies when they so clearly love each other.



People celebrate the departure of Waka Tapu, from the Viaduct Events Centre, Auckland. Photo: Steven McNicholl.

Waka crews set off on 10,000-mile ocean journey

[Aug 18, 2012] Crewed by twenty-three 18 to 62 year olds, Te Aurere and Ngahiraka departed on their 10,000-nautical mile voyage, expected to take six to eight weeks to reach Rapanui/Easter Island. Master waka builder Hekenukumai Busby joined the Royal New Zealand Navy, a couple of hundred whanau and well-wishers to farewell the canoes with song and haka, the sounds echoing out over glassy Waitemata water. "The biggest challenge will be Sunday morning because we'll be out of sight of land...that's when the enormity of what they're about to do will hit home."



Lady Davina, husband Gary Lewis and daughter Senna Kowhai with Autumn, Peter and Savannah Phillips. Photo: David Hartley, Rex Features.

Kiwi royal named for king of forest

[Sept 9, 2012] He's 26th in line for the British throne but the newest addition to the royal family has taken his name from Northland's King of the Forest – Tane Mahuta. Lit-

tle Tane Mahuta Lewis was born on Friday, May 25, the second child of Lady Davina Lewis (nee Windsor) and her husband, Gary. The first Maori member of the royal family, Gary is a former sheep shearer from Gisborne who was running a building firm in Auckland when the couple married. "This is the child of a Maori builder and that's the most New Zealand name anyone in line to the throne has ever had."



Ensure your mail has a return address. Photo: APN.

So, that's where it went!

[Sept 9, 2012] New Zealand Post has been selling off people's lost and undeliverable items – and keeping the cash – for the past 12 years. A mountain of undeliverable parcels and letters are stored annually, and items of value are held for just three months before being sold off at auction. "Mail items get returned for many different reasons. ... It is only after exhausting all options for identifying a sender or recipient, and holding mail for three months, that it is forwarded for auction. ... However, the revenue generated does not cover the costs NZ Post incurs for handling unclaimed mail." Some of the items auctioned might surprise you – tents, deep fryers, car parts and golf clubs.



Heralding change

[Sept 9, 2012] If you haven't been there in a while, take a look at the new nzherald.co.nz! In addition to the new compact Herald newspaper, the new web design is clean and modern to appeal to a wide variety of readers.

Among the changes are a new masthead and a new way to get a quick glance at top stories for those who just want a snapshot. The navigation looks a bit different and goes with you as you scroll down the page, allowing for easy navigation to other sections. The top stories column on the left shows the most important stories, 'latest news' shows what's happened since your last visit, and be sure to click on the 'Quickread' icon to get a snapshot of the story. I must say, it looks good, so be sure to check it out!



Sophie Pascoe won gold and a world record in the S10 Women's 100m butterfly. Philippa Gray and Laura Thompson won bronze in the Tandem Women's Time Trial. Photos: paralympics.org.nz.

Return of the champions

[Sept 10, 2012, paralympics.org.nz] New Zealand finished the Paralympic Games on a high with 17 medals – 6 gold, 7 silver and 4 bronze. Christchurch swimming sensation Sophie Pascoe completed an outstanding Games at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park, collecting three gold and three silver medals from her six events, and then finishing off the Games as New Zealand's flagbearer for the closing ceremony. The small 24-strong Kiwi contingent, did themselves and their country proud, propelling New Zealand to the number one spot on medals per capita at the end of the 10-day competition. Outstanding!

Kiwi Travellers

If you are planning a trip anytime soon, the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) would like you visit their website at www.safetravel.govt.nz where you will get lots of useful information, including links to travel advisories for specific destinations, a travellers' checklist, and a registration facility where you can log your travel plans. MFAT also recommends that all NZ citizens residing overseas register their details on the site so you can be contacted in an emergency. Printed info on this initiative will be available at our social night on Friday September 28.

Bob and Jennette McNair

Jennette Ford was born in Sydney, Australia, where she attended school and business college. She did secretarial work, mostly in the insurance industry. Bob was born in Winnipeg, eldest of a family of 10. After finishing school here, he decided to travel to Oz, joking that the family needed his bed!

Bob had an uncle in the oil business, an engineer drilling in the Mooney Fields in Queensland, who told him about the opportunities in Australia. It was on the Gold Coast that Jennette and Bob met in 1965. They went to Darwin for two years where he worked for the bottlers of Coca-Cola and she for a building contractor. They were married in Sydney in 1969.

Then it was off to Naples, Italy, for three months of hitchhiking around Europe before returning to Winnipeg, for Bob after a five-year absence. Jennette remembers the time well because it was on the train between Montreal and Winnipeg in July of that year we listened on a radio as Neil Armstrong did the historic moon walk.

Jennette found work at the Canadian Wheat Board, and Bob worked at National Grain and took a computer course at Red River College.

In 1972 they moved back to Sydney and started raising a family – daughters Jennifer and Jodie. Bob began a 28-year career in IT at Qantas, while Jennette pursued real estate and publishing.

In 2000 Bob took early retirement from Qantas to take up the IT position with the oneworld Alliance, which was starting up with head office in Vancouver. It was perfect timing for them both, and there were lots of trips back to Winnipeg.

In 1998, they were visiting friends in Lorette, Manitoba, who told them about the horse farm with the big white barn next door that was for sale. They had often admired the property, so they bought it, and then when Bob retired in 2008, he and Jennette called it home.

Daughter Jennifer married a good friend of Bob's youngest brother and lives in Manly, NSW, with her family, and Jodie lives in Ibiza,



Jennette and Bob with their granddaughters ... and barn.

a Spanish island in the Mediterranean. They all get together regularly in Manly or at the farm. After thirty five years in aviation, Bob and Jennette prefer to avoid airports whenever possible and enjoy their road trips.

There is a connection between Jenny Gates and the McNairs that could be the subject of another article, but suffice to say that it accounts for their membership in the DUCW.

Gordon Keatch

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Panels of plain folks judging minor crimes to ease court burden

New Zealand is experimenting with a pilot project that would ease the burden on courts by putting lower-level crimes, such as vandalism and shoplifting, before Community Justice Panels.

As part of the year-long experiment, more than 100 offenders, largely first-timers, already have appeared before a panel of three community members to face the repercussions of their crime.

Fairfax press reporter Jo McKenzie-McLean writes that police co-ordinator for the project, Senior Sergeant Roy Appley, said that in his 26 years of policing, the CJP was one of the most successful projects he had been involved in.

"It's because it's actually getting to the reasons why people are committing crimes and doing something about it, rather than just punishment. It's got real potential to make a difference in people's lives. I think we are unlimited in the type of offending that goes before the panel, and furthermore, we could use the same forum to address problems in the community before offences are committed."

So far, there is a pool of about 40 volunteers who meet every Wednesday to consider cases, discuss the crime with the offender, and deliver "sanctions" such as reparation and community service to hold the offender accountable.

The Press reports that in 12 months of operation, 89 per cent of offenders complied with panel orders.

An offender could spend up to an hour in talks with the panel, compared with a few minutes in front of a judge in court. Only five per cent of cases have returned to the court system since the trial began.

Tasmania upper house wants ban on smokes sales to anyone born since 2000

Anti-cigarette opposition is getting more and more strident in Australia.

Now the Upper House in Tasmania's bicameral legislature wants sales to be banned to anyone born in this millennium.

Tight restriction attitudes already are placed nationwide on cigarettes. And soon, they'll be even tougher. Logo display limits

will extend even to the packaging. Packs may not include brand names or any claim to taste or pleasure. Instead they will be dull, plain, and carry sickening illustrations of lung tumours and blackened scabby tongues.

Cigarettes are not on show in stores. Rather they are to be kept in below-the-counter cupboards or drawers. After the plain-packaging law takes effect on Dec. 1 any corner-store owner brave enough to sell a branded pack faces a \$200,000 fine – or worse, bankruptcy.

Bangladeshi police get nasty to keep garment labour costs low

Impoverished Bangladesh, which won a bloody fight in 1971 to sever its ties to Pakistan and has suffered mightily since its independence, has a new problem – this one arising from a series of corporate successes.

As Mahendra Ved, a New Delhi columnist for the Singapore *Straits Times*, reported this month, the once inconsequential poor boy of world trade, Bangladesh is now an export powerhouse, second only to China in apparel exports. Its cheaply staffed factories churn out products for brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Gap, Calvin Klein and H&M. Global retailers like Target and Walmart now operate sourcing offices in Dhaka, the capital. The industry accounts for 80 percent of manufacturing exports and more than 3 million jobs. But can it last?

Having the lowest labour costs in the world, with the minimum pay for garment workers at about \$37 a month, has been key. But since 2010, as meagre earnings have been eroded by double-digit inflation, protests have spawned clashes with the police.

In response, a high-level government committee has been appointed to monitor the garment sector. As a result, the military, the police and intelligence agencies are filling a rather physical controlling role. A new special police force patrols many industrial areas, while domestic intelligence agencies keep an eye on some labour organizers. One who had been closely watched, Aminul Islam, was found tortured and killed in April. The case is unsolved, the message delivered.

"The garment industry is No. 1 for exports and dollars for the country," said Alonzo Suson, who runs the Solidarity Center in Dhaka, an AFL-CIO-affiliated labor rights group. "Any slowdown of that development is a national security issue."

But the labour unrest is a matter of growing concern for foreign allies who have warned Bangladeshi garment factory owners that any perception of a rollback on labour

rights could scare off multinational brands and damage the garment industry.

Prescient speech horribly fortified by Gambia's slaughter threat

Sir Ronald Sanders, a former Caribbean diplomat and member of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group, offered a somewhat stinging criticism of the Commonwealth Secretariat, in a segment of speech, that resonates alarmingly.

Subsequently, recent threats that 47 prisoners would be executed in The Gambia gave his message special resonance.

Sir Ronald said in his speech to the Commonwealth Business Council that while recognizing the Secretariat is "under resourced and requires not only wider machinery to alert the Secretary-General to potential problems, but also a mechanism that goes beyond government permission, to set the machinery in motion", reactions to horrific situations falls short of requirements.

He said action by the Secretary-General to employ his good offices role to correct infractions of core values of membership should be undertaken within member states automatically and should not have to await the agreement of the government concerned.

"As the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Secretary-General should immediately speak up publicly when there are serious violations of the Commonwealth's core values."

It is a theme that has had lots of currency.

Not referred to in his speech, but a classic example of principles of the Commonwealth being snubbed, is the announcement in The Gambia last month that 47 prisoners on death row, many there from the 1990s, would be executed by mid-September.

According to Al Jazeera Television, reports late August from The Gambia said authorities had executed nine prisoners on death row, following President Yahya Jammeh's promise to carry out all death sentences by mid-September. The facts were also credibly supported by Amnesty International.

Could a tougher line by the Secretariat have made a difference?

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.

remember

about or of interest to members of our club

An inspiration among us

Kudos to Jacqueline Cassel-Vernon for being featured on the “Winnipeg in Motion” website for her newfound love of cycling to work. In Jacqueline’s own words, “I decided, once the snow melted and our early spring warmed things up, that I would try to cycle to work, going 7.5 km from Windsor Park to Carlton Street. It would save me gas and parking fees, I’d get some exercise built into my day, and I’d have more time for other things, rather than sitting and stewing in traffic jams.” To read more of her story, go to www.winnipeginmotion.ca/story/?id=1113.

Elephant Ollie

If you are looking for something ‘made with love’ from a small business in NZ, look no further than Elephant Ollie. They are selling NZ handmade 3-layered Bibs and Gift Sets. Any fabric can be made into any style bib, and all their products are fashionable and functional! Contact them today and they’ll be happy to make it for you and then pop it in the post. www.facebook.com/pages/Elephant-Ollie/163503697094368?ref=hl

Daylight Saving Update

Remember that in Australia and New Zealand, the clocks go forward an hour on the last Sunday in September. Think twice before you dial!

bottomfivesites

some favourite links to follow

www.taste.com.au — delicious recipes from Oz

www.sweetdreamsluxuryinn.com — sleepover in exquisite style

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oemxfntjvw8&sns=em — watch for DUCW member Pam Sabourin’s sister, Rhonda, who talks about people asking you “How are you?” and by the end of the day, you feel great (between 0:45 and 1:16)

www.ausfoodnews.com.au/2012/09/04/going-wild-for-camel-pizza-and-goat-curry.html — bush tucker at the Alice (Springs) Desert Festival, on now until Oct 10. Yum!

www.tastefortravel.com.au — speaks for itself

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antipodean literature

Selling the Dream — The Art of Early New Zealand Tourism, www.sellingthedream.co.nz

“Be prepared to reminisce, feel even better about this great country, and plan your next New Zealand adventure. These posters are more than just advertising: they make people dream.

“Selling the Dream is the first dedicated and extensive celebration of tourism posters and other publicity that helped promote New Zealand – both locally and to the world – until the 1960s. This was a pivotal period in the history of New Zealand publicity – before

SELLING THE DREAM

The Art of Early New Zealand Tourism



television and colour photography changed the publicity landscape forever – creating not only a tourism marketing proposition but a sense of national identity as well. The imagery is some of the finest graphic art ever produced in New Zealand, and as arresting and impressive today as when it was first created.

“Published by award-winning New Zealand publisher Craig Potton Publishing, the book is a 408-page, large-format, high-end production with close to 1,000 images and 11 specially commissioned essays. The book represents the combined efforts of three guys seduced by the art of early New Zealand tourism: Peter Alsop, Gary Stewart and Dave Bamford. It represents one of those tireless labour-of-loves we couldn’t resist. Fortunately, this was one of the lucky late night projects that got completed.

“The book is dedicated to the artistic pioneers who designed and created the inspiring images that make Selling the Dream; pioneers who deserve to be better recognised and admired for their contribution to New Zealand’s art history and pivotal role in shaping our national identity. We hope you enjoy the book as much as we’ve enjoyed creating it. Check out the sampler, and if you purchase on-line order via our site, it will save you 10% of the book’s recommended retail price.”

Ed: The book looks fascinating. Visit their website today and see for yourself.



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The electronic PDF version of this newsletter is available on our website, in full colour. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services.

The *Southern Yarn* is published by the Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc. (DUCW). The views and opinions expressed by contributors to this publication are not endorsed by, nor do they necessarily reflect those of, the members of the DUCW. The DUCW and the Editor of *The Southern Yarn* do not accept any responsibility for the content or accuracy of information or websites contained in this publication. Articles may be republished with permission of the Editor.

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The Southern Yarn

October 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

October

downundercalendar
2012

details on page 3

OCTOBER

Saturday October 27, 6:00 pm
Formal dinner

Bailey's Restaurant, 185 Lombard

This is going to be a fabulous night out. The menu is elsewhere on this page, and has been emailed out to everyone within dining distance. Note that you do not need to preorder, BUT you do need to **RSVP by**

October 24! There is a maximum seating of 40, and this is a very popular event, so don't delay in reserving your spot. Contact Peter at social@downunderclub.mb.ca or **204-237-1805**. See you there!

NOVEMBER

Friday November 30, 7:00 pm
AGM and Club Officer Elections

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

We look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming AGM. Consider putting your name forward for a position on the executive — all positions are up for grabs. Come along and show your support for the outgoing and incoming executive, and hear all about our successful year. And stay for the wine and cheese tasting — a great way to meet everyone and catch up on all the news.

DECEMBER

Sunday December 16 -

note the date change

Christmas Party AND Potluck
Dinner, 4:00 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Santa is getting all his reindeer ready to bring your gifts to our Christmas Party. But to help him do that, we need to know your names and ages so Santa can get you a gift. Ask your parents to send that information along to social@downunderclub.mb.ca or to call Margaret at 204-237-1805. This is a POTLUCK DINNER, and we will need mostly mains, salads and veggie dishes, as well as a few desserts. More details to come, but get your names and ages in now!

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.

Looking back and looking forward



photo: hydsmith

Ideas flowed freely at the brainstorming session, giving us all lots to think about for the Club's future.

SEPTEMBER

A big thank you to everyone who came out to our DUCW brainstorming session. Lots of great ideas and comments, and it was wonderful to hear so much support for where we've been and where we're going. We will include a write up in the November issue so you are all in on the discussion that took place. But for now, there are a few things to note.

First up, after a lot of discussion about the newsletter, I thought we'd incorporate some of the suggestions and try a 6-page issue this month. Let us know what you think.

Also, as we have said elsewhere in this issue, all the positions are up for grabs in our elections in November, and we are looking for some new blood on the executive, or at least some new insight, energy and ideas.

For example, after almost 18 years at the helm, I will be stepping down as **newsletter editor**. That will mean a bit of a shakeup to the executive position of media/communication chair. So, if you've had a hankering to take on the newsletter, this is the perfect time to put your name forward.

As always, we are especially looking for a **social coordinator**. It's honestly more fun and less work than you think, so we just need someone who likes to organise a few things a year and who would be willing to be the contact for all things social.

If you have any questions about any of the positions, contact **Gordon Keatch** (204-832-4405) or anyone on the executive at info@downunderclub.mb.ca.

OCTOBER

Our next event is the Formal Dinner, coming up on Saturday October 27, at Bailey's Restaurant at 185 Lombard. We have a maximum seating of 40, so don't delay in reserving your spot.

Check out the menu below, BUT know that you don't need to preorder. You do, however, need to **RSVP by October 24**. Please contact Peter at social@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-237-1805.

DUCW Formal Dinner Menu

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

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

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

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

Filet of Salmon — grilled salmon, served with a creamy basil sauce

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



All meals include:

salad of Manitoba field greens with a creamy cucumber and dill dressing; fresh rolls; oven-roasted lemon potatoes; selected vegetables; coffee or tea.

Gonna be great, so see you there!

editorially yours

Jenny Gates



As I type this, there is more snow in the Blue Mountains in Sydney – currently supposedly heading toward summer – than we have here in Winnipeg. That's nice for a change!

And speaking of change, given my news on the front page of this newsletter, I am writing what will be one of my final editorials. Hard to even say the words "stepping down as editor" after so many years at the helm. I still remember when Jacqueline Cassel-Vernon asked if I was interested in taking over from her after her stint as editor almost 18 years ago. It's been a great ride, but now it's time for other things.

More about that next month, but here's another reminder to all of you who would like to spend some time on the DUCW Board. I know you're out there somewhere, and the AGM coming up in November is the perfect opportunity to get involved. I can tell you from experience that it's great to be part of the executive and to work with the support of the membership, so why not get on board ... pun intended.

Before then, of course, we have our Formal Dinner at Bailey's. That's going to be a great night, so be sure to reserve your seat now.

This newsletter has most of the usual suspects: all the details of our past and future events (p. 1), a word from our president (p. 2), news from downunder (p. 3), a chance to get to know Heather Robinson and a book you might like (p. 4), an update on the Commonwealth (p. 5), and page 6 is packed with a farewell to our friends at The Billabong, some exciting information on a DUCW teen council, and a special ask from the Vernons.

As you will see on these pages, a few things have gone and a few things have moved around. Thoughts either way will be much appreciated.

Until next issue, see you at the Formal Dinner!

president's ramblings

Terry Roberts



Last-minute president

This is a last-minute column just before the deadline, which I can never seem to make. A problem I hope you don't have as far as the not-so Formal Dinner is concerned. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Baileys restaurant and having a good time with friends and a good meal (as always).

We had our brainstorming night and got some good ideas. Now we just need some good-minded people to run with those ideas.

Don't forget the AGM is coming up and we are looking for people to become involved in helping the Club by getting on the board. Some positions will be up for grabs and I know you want the Club to thrive, so think about becoming a board member this November. See you at the dinner.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

For those of you who still haven't paid your membership dues, we would really appreciate getting your cheque as soon as possible. A bargain at \$10 for a single, and \$20 for a couple or family. Don't delay — we love having you as members and we love to take your money, which is well invested in the future of the DUCW.

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 30**, 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 — Media/Communications

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.

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Suspects captured ... on film, at least. Photo: SMH.

Thirsty, hungry thieves

[Sept 26, 2012] Two of Sydney's dumbest thieves broke into the Annandale Hotel, and after discovering the bar's till empty, decided to enjoy a beer, then a banana Paddle Pop before leaving about 10 minutes later – all caught on the bar security camera. The Hotel is offering a case of beer as a reward to anyone who can help catch the culprits. "Knowing these guys, they will probably turn themselves in to claim the beer."



Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder. Photo: SMH.

The mightiest telescope

[Oct 5, 2012] Scientists will be on the lookout for intelligent life in the outer regions of the universe when they embark on studies into the origin of life on Earth using the world's most powerful telescope system. Comprising 36 dishes in remote Murchison and located 315 km north-east of Geraldton, WA, the \$400 million project has already been booked out for its first five years by 350 international researchers. They will conduct various projects, including a census of galaxies within several billion light years of Earth, and studies of magnetic fields and black holes.



Dr Fiona Wood. Photo: Stefan Gosatti.

Burn therapy spreads

[Oct 8, 2012] Renowned burns specialist Fiona Wood says her ground-breaking

spray-on skin treatment is close to a "tipping point" for widespread use around the world. The ReCell spray-on skin treatment involves using a patient's own cells in a regenerative process, eliminating tissue rejection, speeding up healing, minimising scars, and reintroducing pigmentation to the skin. The therapy helped many of the 2002 Bali bombing survivors.

Photo: AFN.

Tasmanian salmon farming expansion

[Oct 10, 2012, ausfood-news.com.au, courtesy Charlie Powell] Australia's largest fish farm in Tasmania is about to undergo a massive expansion. The planned \$150 – \$200 million farm located in the vicinity of the Macquarie Harbour and bordering the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area, is expected to "triple fish production in a year". It is predicted that approximately 200 jobs will be generated in the area, including boat skippers, divers, fish farm hands and safety managers. Sweet!



fastest growing region, and account for three-fifths of the country's population growth between 2011 and 2031. "Auckland has a slightly younger population than other regions, and younger populations tend to have more births and relatively fewer deaths." Huh!



Rotting participants in the 2010 zombie walk. Photo: Ben Fraser.

Zombie Walk returns despite complaints

[Oct 8, 2012] The third annual Rotorua Zombie Walk will take place on October 20, despite calls to cancel the event. The unusual fundraising event has been growing in popularity, and proceeds go to Brain Injury Rotorua. The goal of \$4,000 will hopefully be raised not only from the walk, but also from a Halloween Party the following week. According to event organiser Layla Robinson, "Luckily most of the people I've spoken to support this event." For more info, www.zombiewalk.co.nz.

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Photo: stamps.nzpost.co.nz/thehobbit.

A stamp on Middle Earth

[Oct 6, 2012] Middle Earth is distributing millions of stamps and coins to commemorate the new Hobbit movie premiering soon in Wellington. An exclusive deal between NZ Post and Hollywood-based Warner Bros includes worldwide rights to produce legal-tender coins linked to the first movie in Peter Jackson's trilogy of films based on The Hobbit. "Millions of these stamps will be put on envelopes and sent around the world." Each coin will be inscribed in English and "Dwarvish". The stamps and coins go on sale November 1.

A lot more fabulous folk!

[Oct 8, 2012] According to Statistics New Zealand projections, New Zealand will have more than five million people by 2031 – with almost 2 million living in Auckland. New subnational population projections show Auckland will continue to be New Zealand's



Living in style

[Oct 2012] The Cloud house (above), by McBride Charles Ryan, is an addition to a double-fronted Edwardian house in Fitzroy North, Melbourne, Australia. And The Retreat (below) is an arrangement of free-standing structures around a courtyard on Matiatia Bay on Waiheke Island, NZ. Both were shortlisted for the World Architecture Festival 2012 Awards. For all entries, visit bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-19673047



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www.contemporist.com

Heather Robinson

My copy of the DUCW Roster lists Heather as an educator and biochemist. While this is correct, a review of her CV reveals there is no doubt this is somewhat of an understatement. Here's why.

Heather Robinson was born in Chatham, Kent County, southwestern Ontario in 1946. Her father, Dr Robert William Boyle, was a WWII veteran and a geochemist. After the war, her parents lived first in Ajax, ON, while her father was studying for his doctorate at the University of Toronto. Six years later, her father got a job in Ottawa working for the Geological Survey of Canada.

In Ottawa, Heather attended Maxwell Elementary School, Broadview Junior High and Nepean High School. She graduated from Carleton University with a BSc Honours in biology and chemistry in 1968.

In this same year, she travelled west to Edmonton, AB, and started working on a degree in biochemistry and bacteriology. It was there that she met Brian Robinson who was also studying for his PhD in geochemistry. They married in Ottawa in 1971 and moved to New Zealand. By then, Brian had his PhD and was working in Lower Hutt at the Institute for Nuclear Sciences.

In New Zealand, Heather was certified as a teacher and taught at various high schools: a co-ed school in Hutt Valley, an all-women's school at Heretaunga and an all-male school at Rongotai. In 1973, she enrolled at Victoria University of Wellington and five years later earned a PhD in biochemistry and biophysics. In 1981, she returned to Ottawa for a year, having separated from her husband, and one year later was offered a position in Winnipeg at the RH Institute (U of M) as Post Doctoral Fellow. Two years later, she returned to the practice of education and once again certified at U of M in teaching,



substituting afterward for a year in 11 school divisions. In 1986, Heather took a job at the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre and has been employed there teaching biology, genetics, ecology and biochemistry for 26 years.

Heather goes to Ottawa quite often, and just to keep busy, co-founded the Science Council of Manitoba in 1990, serving as president for two years and past-president for 20 years. She was also the first secretary coordinator for Dance Manitoba, instituting their first offices in Pantages Theatre, transferring the Dance Festival to Dance Manitoba, and establishing their first funding grants/constitution with the Manitoba Government.

Heather founded the Youth Encouraging Sustainability Project in 1992, which sponsors an annual science fair at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, various field camps for teacher/student teams, and an annual Celebration of Sustainability Practices in Manitoba Schools at the University of Winnipeg. In 1992, she served on the first board that developed Oak Hammock Interpretive Centre. During this time, she was also a co-founder of The Biology Teacher's Organisation and served on the STAM Board that deals with professional development workshops in the sciences. She claims to have retired in May 2012 from the Science Council Manitoba, but still serves as a mentor and advisor to all.

Meanwhile, Heather plans to work as an artist, printmaker and writer. She enjoys gardening and modern/historical/folk dance having trained in classical dance from the age of five. She travels a lot and was recently in Iceland. She holds dual citizenship and wants to go back to New Zealand soon to do some painting and writing and visit with old friends.

At the invitation of a fellow colleague, Heather attended the DUCW fundraiser for the Christchurch Earthquake victims and promptly joined the club.

Told you that her listing in the DUCW Roster was an understatement!

Gordon Keatch

thebooknook

antipodean literature

100 Stories from the Australian National Maritime Museum

October 2012

AUD\$39.95 (AUD\$36.32
ex-tax) NZD\$49.95



From a small silver medallion beautifully engraved by a First Fleet convict to the 119-metre Royal Australian Navy destroyer, HMAS *Vampire*, the Australian National Maritime Museum has an incredibly diverse collection of more than 130,000 items. In this book, the museum's curators reveal the fascinating stories behind many amazing objects, including the fastest vessel in the world (Spirit of Australia), a boat made from 2,000 beer cans, the remarkable Saltwater Collection of bark paintings from Arnhem Land, and surfboards inspired by the Bra Boys and the 2005 Cronulla race riots. They tell of unforgettable people - both famous and lesser known - whose lives have been shaped by the sea. Great way to connect with Australia's maritime history and culture.

This book includes a painting by my great friend and extraordinary artist **Bob McRae** (www.bobmrae.com.au). Bob's painting and his story of HMAS *Arunta* in the Persian Gulf in 2008 is on page 134. Check it out at www.newsouthbooks.com.au/content/isbn/9781742233208.htm

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Oz parliament formally and roundly nixes gay marriage

Australian MPs bounced a bill that would have legalized gay marriage. The vote in the House of Representatives was 98 to 42.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott both voted against the proposal.

Generally speaking, formalized gay unions are not permitted. However, some states turn a blind eye to such civil unions.

Miscarriage, jailing in 5-way killing may win Dunedin man \$2-million

Retired Canadian Supreme Court judge, seconded by NZ to consider a miscarriage of justice case, has persuaded the Justice Department there is material support to uphold acquittal.

Justice Minister Judith Collins will announce a decision on David Bain's bid for compensation by the end of the year. It could be worth up to \$2-million for him in his quest for damages for wrongful conviction and 13 years imprisonment.

Collins received advice on the claim in September, and Cabinet's decision is likely a few months away. That's when Justice Ian Binnie's report will be released.

Bain was convicted in 1995 in the deaths of five of his family in Dunedin. However, the Privy Council quashed this in 2007. It ruled a substantial miscarriage of justice had occurred and ordered a retrial. In 2009 he was acquitted on all five counts of murder after a three-month trial.

His counsel lodged a claim for compensation and former justice minister Simon Power appointed Justice Binnie in November to assess the case.

Only those who have had their convictions quashed on appeal without order of retrial, or who have received a free pardon, can apply for compensation. They must establish their innocence on the balance of probabilities.

Because Bain was acquitted following a retrial, he falls outside these Cabinet guidelines. But the rules also allow discretion in "extraordinary circumstances" – which the claimant must demonstrate.

Papua New Guinea gets a pass mark on election conduct

The electoral process in Papua New Guinea

needs some attention if it is to meet basic Commonwealth standards. This was the guts of an appraisal of the country's June-July foray into the electorate there, as judged by the Commonwealth Observer Group. Considering Papua New Guinea is regarded as pretty rough country (even by its tolerant Oz neighbour), it's clear the country has come a long way.

"While I was pleased that the election process was largely peaceful, and many people were able to express their will, I also note the group's conclusions that significant challenges remain in some areas which need to be addressed for the future," Secretary-General Karmalesh Sharma said.

As reported by the observers, the tidying required included measures to improve the electoral roll and election management, better voter education, tougher enforcement of electoral laws, and a more level playing field for women's political participation.

"The Commonwealth stands ready to assist ... in implementing these recommendations, in collaboration with the new Government and others as appropriate," said the Secretary-General.

Coups in Maldives and Fiji afford lessons for coup plotters

Earlier this year, mutinying police and troops delivered an ultimatum at gunpoint to the democratically elected Maldives president, Mohammed Nasheed. They told him to quit within the hour or face bloodshed, and put him under house arrest. They simultaneously raided the national broadcaster's headquarters and secured the airwaves. Then the coup leader – the vice president – went on TV to declare himself the new ruler of the country.

Six years ago, a Fiji military mutiny pulled off an equally offensive coup, also displacing democratically elected government, and is still in place under the lead plotter.

The differences in the two coup leaders' techniques are interesting and warrant contrasting.

In the case of Fiji, the international community swiftly condemned the coup, blackballed Fiji from the club of civilized nations, and suspended it from the Commonwealth. It remains so.

In the case of the Maldives, a report was called for and a Commission of National Inquiry, dominated by appointees of the coup government, bamboozled the Commonwealth, which has just whitewashed the coup, declaring it a perfectly legitimate and constitutional transfer of power. This is according to the displaced Maldives presi-

dent. He adds there are useful tips here for future coup plotters.

First, the coup leaders' dress: Commodore Frank Bainimarama took over while publicly wearing military fatigues for his TV appearance, obviously flouting his military muscle. In the Maldives, Waheed Hassan, the new boss, turned out wearing a politically respectable lounge suit.

Second, the message: Bainimarama brazenly broadcast the fact he was overthrowing an elected government that was incompetent. Mohammed Waheed Hassan, in contrast, declared his move was nothing more than a peaceful transfer of Constitutional power.

Appearances clearly mattered. Fiji has been blacklisted and looks brutal, and is. As for the Maldives, its power grab cloaked in refinement and winning mealy-mouthed international nods, looks democratically civilized, and isn't. There the International Commission of Inquiry carefully excised the video evidence that showed footage of police rampaging through Malé, the capital.

What's next for this beautiful tiny republic that is facing extinction as rising oceans encroach on its tiny coral islands with high point some seven metres above sea level? Rising ocean levels could threaten the very existence of this paradise. It has maximum natural ground level of only 2.4 metres and averages just 1.5 metres above sea level. Eighty percent of the total landmass of the islands is only a metre above mean sea level.

A government of suspect legitimacy affords it little hope.

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 Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



If you are on Facebook, remember to "Like" us at www.facebook.com/pages/Down-Under-Club-of-Winnipeg/115975501754598 so we can keep you up to date with downunder goings on here, there and everywhere. We now have 69 friends around the world, so "Like" us and be part of our online community.

remember

about or of interest to members of our club



Our thoughts are with you, Rob

Our good friend and long-time DUCW member Rob Vernon is unfortunately stuck in hospital for the next while. For those of you who haven't heard yet, Rob had a bad turn a few weeks back and is now at St Boniface Hospital where he will be for longer than he or anyone in his family would like.

Jacqueline has been going to see him regularly, and has put out a call for others who have the time and the opportunity to consider dropping in to visit Rob. He is in a special care ward, so you'll need to mask up, gown up and gloves up, but think of it as an audition for Dr Horrible's Singalong (Joss Weadon fans) or for one of the many medical dramas currently gracing the small screen.

Last word from Jacqueline ... "Rob's stabilized at this point so has been moved to a lower critical care ward. Now on 6A43, Bed #1 for those who wish to visit or send well wishes. And he's grumpy - seems he doesn't like his new room - no view except of the air-con system next door."

I don't blame him on that last point.

Anyway, if you can visit - GREAT! If not, consider dropping him a line via the Well Wishes link - forms.manitoba-ehealth.ca/sbh/wellwishes/default.php.

You'll be making a grumpy, laid-up, family deprived man very happy!

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Contact Jenny (204-228-9959) 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.

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Farewell and thanks to you all!

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to our mates at **The Billabong**. As some of you may have heard, Erin and Peter Keating and Owen Degen have sold their wonderful Aussie-style restaurant and are moving on to other things.

Erin and Peter are taking the kids back to Oz for a year, while Owen is staying on at The Billabong for a while and then looking at new opportunities. The new owners will be keeping some of the Aussie style, but renaming the restaurant and putting their own twist on the menu.



We can't thank Erin, Peter and Owen enough for so many things ... the focus on Australia with the delicious tucker and plonk that they served to the entire Winnipeg community and beyond, the support to the Down Under Club through special events, gift certificates, advertising in the newsletter, gifts for fundraisers, hosting one of our formal dinners, and being part of our club culture when time allowed. Most of all, we have enjoyed getting to know the three of you, as well as Calvin and Zaemia, and your folks when they were in town.

For now, we wish Erin and Peter and the kids a fun and frolicking time in Oz, and Owen success with his new direction. Until we see you again, we look forward to hearing about any of your adventures there and here.

Calling all DUCW Teens!

One idea that came out of the recent brainstorming session was the concept of a **DUCW Teen Council**. Murray Burt, who writes our Commonwealth Corner column, and his wife Betsy, both of whom have been long-time members of the Club, have offered to mentor the Council to get it going. They even have their first candidate, so it's already off to a good start. We thought that before they approach people directly, we'd mention the idea in the newsletter so you can put on your thinking caps and see if it's a fit for you and your teens. If you are interested in finding out more about the Teen Council or have your own ideas about how you could be involved, please contact us at 204-228-9959 or info@downunderclub.mb.ca.



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design@hydesmith.com](http://hydesmithdesign.com)

The electronic PDF version of this newsletter is available on our website, in full colour. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services.

The *Southern Yarn* is published by the Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc. (DUCW). The views and opinions expressed by contributors to this publication are not endorsed by, nor do they necessarily reflect those of, the members of the DUCW. The DUCW and the Editor of *The Southern Yarn* do not accept any responsibility for the content or accuracy of information or websites contained in this publication. Articles may be republished with permission of the Editor.

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The Southern Yarn

November 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

November

downundercalendar
2012

details on page 3

NOVEMBER

Sunday November 25

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Scandinavian Christmas Market & Café

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Delicious food, crafts and gifts, Always an excellent event, so be sure to check it out. More details on page 2.

Friday November 30, 7:00 pm

AGM and Club Officer Elections Wine and Cheese Tasting

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

We look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming AGM. Consider putting your name forward for a position on the executive — all positions are up for grabs. Come along and show your support for the outgoing and incoming executive, and hear all about our successful year. And stay for the wine and cheese tasting — a great way to meet everyone and catch up on all the news.

DECEMBER

Sunday December 16

note the date change

Christmas Party AND Potluck Dinner, 4:00 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Santa is getting all his reindeer ready to bring your gifts to our Christmas Party. And if you haven't let Head Elf Margaret know that you will be there and hoping for a gift from Santa, ask your parents to contact her TODAY at social@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-237-1805. This is a POTLUCK DINNER, so be sure to bring mostly mains, salads and veggie dishes, as well as a few desserts. Get your names and ages in now!



Before and after

OCTOBER

Well done to all those who made the Formal Dinner a spectacular success. With a room all to ourselves, 23 members and guests wined and dined for several hours and shared chatter and camaraderie.

Two of our members, Bob and Jennette McNair, made the trip in from Lorette, we welcomed Garry and Bev O'Connell as new members, and guest Leith Robertson dropped in to find out more about the Club and meet a few of us.

After some initial remarks by our Vice President Peter Munn, the ordering and dining got underway. The selections were truly delicious, judging by the many comments in between bites and on finished plates.

Big thanks to the staff at Bailey's who looked after us from start to finish — although they were a bit quick off the mark when they gave us our bills without checking first to see if any of us wanted dessert ... Gordon and Leon!

And big thanks to the Club for providing some of the wine for the evening. An excellent night was had by all!

Best comments of the night ... "Get the vegetables out of the way first." (GH) "It's an art being a carnivore!" (JM)

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 .

NOVEMBER

PLEASE make a date to join us on **Friday November 30** at 7:00 pm for our **Annual General Meeting** and Club Officer Elections at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre.

We are looking for some of you to step into roles on the executive. Our Club thrives on an enthusiastic and involved executive that supports the membership, organises events, manages our funds, communicates with and to the members, and provides opportunities for us all to get together and keep in touch.

So, come along and show your support for the outgoing and incoming executive, and hear all about our successful year. And stay for the **wine and cheese tasting** — a great way to meet everyone and catch up on all the news.

DECEMBER

A reminder that the date for the Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner has changed to **Sunday December 16**. Festivities will get underway around 4:00 pm, and Santa will be joining us as soon as he arrives from the North Pole.

If you haven't let Head Elf Margaret know that your child will be there and hoping for a gift from Santa, contact her TODAY at social@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-237-1805. This is a POTLUCK DINNER, and we will need mostly mains, salads and veggie dishes, as well as a few desserts. See you there!

the down under club of winnipeg inc.
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editorially yours

Jenny Gates



And here we are at last! After 17 and a bit years, 208 issues, and a conservative estimate of penning a million words and editing more than 1.5 million, this is my final offering as editor of *The Southern Yarn*.

It's been quite the ride, meeting monthly deadlines, handling complaints (fortunately few enough that my ego wasn't too bruised), and constantly looking for new ways to intrigue and interest readers.

I have loved every minute of this responsibility, but now it's time for me to commit to other things. I want to focus fulltime on public speaking and creative writing, two endeavours that have been on the back burner for way too long.

As this is my last official newsletter, I thought I would fill you in on a few things you might not know about our monthly newsletter. Check them out on page 6!

In the meantime, enjoy this issue, with all the usual suspects, including an opportunity to get to know Ray Serwylo (p. 4). I'll leave it to you to find your way through this offering so I can extend a few thanks.

Thanks to all the contributors and columnists over the years, for their words, hard work and commitment.

Thanks to all our advertisers, for their ongoing support of the *Yarn*.

Thanks to David and his dedicated team at Kendricks, for their always professional work and willingness to work to our deadlines.

Thanks to Gordon Keatch for too many things to mention.

Thanks to Brian Hydesmith for his creative design, wonderful friendship, and brilliant ideas that added life to every page.

And thanks to all of you for your support over the past 17 years. It has been a real pleasure being your editor, and in many ways, I suspect the best is yet to come!

Today I watched the Remembrance Day Service at the Convention Center on Shaw TV in the warmth of my living room. I was surprised to see so few people in the hall, as it falls this year on a Sunday and I presumed more people would be able to attend.

president's ramblings

Terry Roberts



I must admit to being one of those who did not attend, unlike when I generally go to one of the local outdoor services, but due to the amount of snow we had fall last night, we had quite a bit of clean up to do. Maybe that was just an easy excuse to not go outside in the cold for a few minutes longer and enjoy the warmth inside.

It's a pity those men and women didn't have that choice when they awoke on a cold snowy morning in the trenches and felt like staying inside whatever warmth they had for a few moments longer. We owe those men and women a debt of

gratitude for allowing us the choice to stay inside in the warmth of our living rooms.

LEST WE FORGET

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM this month as we have a few changes happening within the board for our coming year. See you there.



Scandinavian Christmas Market & Café Sunday November 25

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

11 am – 3 pm

Featuring: Imported Scandinavian Food & Candy, Home Baking, Craft and Gift Items, Café serving Scandinavian delicacies

"We hope to see you and some of your members at the market. The lunch is always great." — Natalie Denesovych

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Roo lasagne. Photo: mattsterchef.com

Roo lasagne?

[Oct 15, 2012, ausfoodnews.com.au, courtesy Charlie Powell]. Queensland and Victoria are looking at culls of excessive numbers of kangaroos as a resource to harvest for Australian and overseas customers. Kangaroo has become an Australian restaurant delicacy, with its low cholesterol, gamey-tasting meat prized by gourmands. A business man in north-west QLD intends to re-open a game meat abattoir to produce shelf-ready kangaroo meat products such as sausages and lasagne. Meanwhile, the Victorian government will look into commercial production of kangaroo meat in Victoria, the only state where kangaroo is prohibited. Currently all kangaroo meat sold in Victoria is sourced interstate.



Volkswagen Kombi: dead at 63. Photo: SMH.

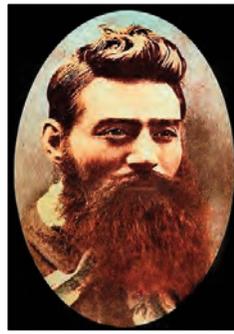
Nooooooo!

[Oct 26, 2012] Volkswagen will end production of the Kombi van in 2013 – 63 years after it was introduced to the world market back in 1950. The only existing VW Kombi production line in the world is in Sao Bernardo del Campo, Brazil, where the vans, which haven't been significantly updated since the late '70s, are still built by company subsidiary Volkswagen do Brasil. Although the demise of the Kombi relates to stricter safety rules that would require the icon become "a new car" to meet the new criteria, the move was also part of a cultural shift for the brand: "At some point, you are the brand with the old cars." Thank you, kombis. We love you.

Photo: Kelly Peace at last for Ned. Photo: SMH.

Burial planned for Ned Kelly

[Oct 30, 2012] Extensive DNA testing has identified the skeletal remains of Ned Kelly, and now his family can start planning a dignified burial. Anthony Griffiths, whose great-grandmother was Kelly's sister, met with the state government about taking possession of the bushranger's remains. Unfortunately, Kelly's skull is still missing after being stolen from an Old Melbourne Gaol display case in 1978. Kelly was hanged in Pentridge Prison in 1880 for killing three police officers.



newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

One of five rare kiwi that carry the hopes of the future. Photo: stuff.co.nz



Rare kiwi birds released into wild

[Oct 23, 2012] A rare Coromandel brown kiwi was chauffeured by a helicopter to Motutapu Island where conservationists hope its population will thrive. Five of the rare kiwi were released on the predator-free island in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf Marine Park in a major diversification programme aimed at strengthening the species' ability to survive. An 11-day-old chick, named Motutapu after its new island home, was the youngest released today and it will be followed by up to another 50 relatives over the next four to six years. The restoration of the island and conservation of the kiwi is "about creating a second Auckland for our rare animals."



Phar Lap's skeleton and hide on display at the Melbourne Museum in 2010. Photo: Getty.

Phar Lap stands tall in Wellington

[Mar 13, 2012, australiangeographic.com.au, courtesy of Charlie Powell] The skeleton of racehorse Phar Lap is again standing proud in New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa. Phar Lap was "a freak of nature" and was such a large horse that re-articulating the skeleton meant new discoveries were made about horse anatomy. Phar Lap, whose heart was 50 per cent bigger than a normal horse's, won 37 of 51 races, including the Melbourne Cup in 1930, and is regarded by many as the greatest racehorse ever.



A scene from 'The Hobbit'. Photo: NZ Herald.

Wellington's Hobbit sculpture

[Nov 11, 2012] Workers have begun preparing a Hobbit-themed sculpture on the roof of Wellington's Embassy Theatre, ahead of the film's premiere this month. The installation, created by director Sir Peter Jackson's art department, will be unveiled before the world premiere of the first film of the trilogy on November 28. Other parts of Wellington have already been decked out with Hobbit creations. Wellington Airport has a 13 m-long sculpture of Gollum suspended from its ceiling, while the fifth floor of the New Zealand Post building has silhouettes of Bilbo Baggins and dwarfs. Thousands are expected to gather alongside the 500 m of red carpet to be laid out along Wellington's Courtenay Place for the premiere of *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*.

PAY UP ... PLEASE?!

Several members still have not renewed their membership dues. Don't delay — we love having you as members and we love to take your money, which is well invested in the future of the DUCW.

Ray Serwyo

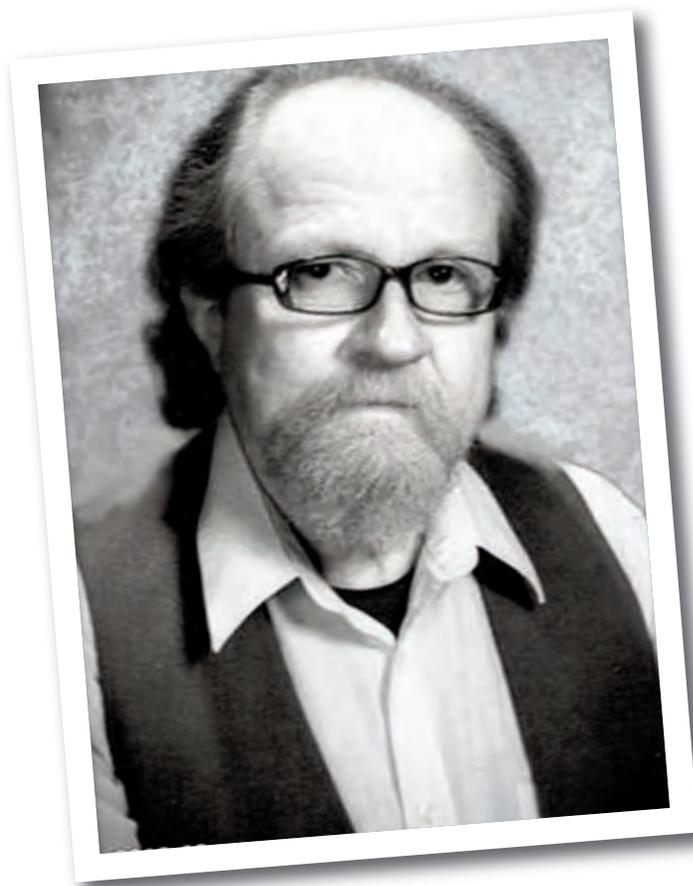
When I started interviewing Ray for this article, it appeared it may be a rather mundane life he was living, but he kept dropping nuggets of information that led to a very interesting and diverse story.

Ray was born in Winnipeg, a proud North Ender, attending William Whyte, and Isaac Newton and St. John's High schools. From 1970 to 1973, he worked summers at the RCMP Detachment in Grand Beach as a civilian member, answering the phone, dispatching, and taking on related duties, including overnight "drunk tank watch".

A graduate of the University of Manitoba in an English pre-M.A. and Teacher Certification programs in the mid-70s, he started a Bachelor in Education at the University of Winnipeg in 1993, but ended up teaching school for 10 years at Fisher River First Nation Reservation. When his contract wasn't renewed via "band politics", Ray started substitute teaching for a while, then held term contracts at Arborg, Treherne and Thompson, MB. It was then back to substitute work.

Early on, for three years, Ray had worked at the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, doing workshops, writing brochures, etc. (A fox in the henhouse, maybe?) Presently, he is still substituting in Winnipeg in several school divisions.

Now for some diversity. Ray is a published author and poet. He translated a Ukrainian novel, *The Call of the Land*, into English. In 1981, he won a writing contest for his novella, *Accordion Lessons*. His writing has appeared in three anthologies and several journals, such as *Prairie Fire*, and, after being a student/participant for two summers, he worked summers at The Banff School of Fine Arts three times as a coordinator and two as an assistant instructor.



In addition to being a member of the Down Under Club, Ray is also a published author and poet.

From 1983 to 1985, Ray lived in Melbourne, where he worked as "the token Canadian" at Toorak College. But before that, starting what he calls a young man's "quest", he backpacked for a year, mostly in Western Europe. In Greece he met Joy, an Aussie girl. After jaunts into Egypt and Israel together, she eventually went back home to Prahran, Victoria, but Ray continued his odyssey – seven weeks in India, then Singapore, Noumea, Sydney and onto Melbourne. In 1981, he and Joy were married there.

Eight weeks later, he came back to Winnipeg and she soon followed. The marriage ended in 1989, by which time four children had made their presence – two boys, Peter and Anton, born in Oz, and two girls, Melania and Maara, born in Canada. (You figure out the climate/gender thing.) All are back down under now, and Ray will be going to Oz

soon for Peter's wedding, as well as to see his two granddaughters.

Ray has worked as an "extra" in several movies made in Manitoba, including *New in Town*, starring Renée Zellweger. (He claims you can see him in the film for a sec if you're swift.) In between "real" jobs, he had put up posters around town for MTC, RWB, PTE and other groups for a year. Ray has also worked as a transcriber and proofreader for the Manitoba Legislature edition of *Hansard*, where he insists he inadvertently and innocently let slip into printed stone Premier Filmon stating: Our government will not waste one cent of the PUBIC's money.

Ray was a member of the DUCW in the 80s and rejoined last year.

Told you he was diversified!

Gordon Keatch

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Malala's shooting unlikely to improve girls' education lot

While the world weeps for Malala Yousufzai, the 15-year-old Pakistani schoolgirl wounded by Islamist militant assassins who was targeted because of her pro-women rights, it is passing strange that the PM of Bangladesh acts so contemptibly toward women's rights issues.

Sheikh Hasina has mounted an offensive to bring down Muhammad Unus, 72, the champion of economic empowerment of women. Unus is the Nobel Peace Prize genius who created Grameen Bank. Probably more than any world institution, the Grameen Bank has been creative in providing small, low-cost loans to set women up on their own businesses and lift them out of poverty – not only in Bangladesh, but throughout Asia and parts of Africa. It has worked magnificently. But Hasina, for her own reasons, has driven Yunis from his job as managing director and is putting all sorts of obstacles in his way.

As the *New York Times* noted, "What a topsy-turvy picture: We see a woman (in Hasina) who has benefitted from evolving gender norms using her government powers to destroy the life's work of a man who has done as much for the world's most vulnerable women as anybody on earth."

Also strange, as *The Globe and Mail's* correspondent Stephanie Nolan reported, back in Pakistan, how was it that the Taliban assassins (the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) said it had been responsible for the attack) could enter an army-secured town, pass through six checkpoints, climb on the school bus, ask Malala to identify herself, shoot her in the head, and depart?

Despite such contradictory circumstances, Nolan writes, "there is considerable research to show that most Pakistanis now support education for girls and that the country has achieved improved gender parity in recent years."

Zip, there goes the South African defamation suit

There are signs of things crumbling around the crusty (and over-hormoned) president of South Africa.

First sign is his decision to drop the \$580,000 defamation damages suit laid against Jonathan Shapiro, the country's most

distinguished cartoonist. The second sign is the trouble emerging related to his excessive spending on a country place and related lifestyle.

President Jacob Zuma was offended and enraged by the cartoon that depicted him, fly undone, ready to address Lady Justice. His change of heart on the suit, however, was likely more to do with his chance of winning the case, considering his reputation as one who has dodged a rape action or two, rather than out of any change of heart forgiveness.

A polygamist with four wives and 20 children, Zuma's tendency to become unzipped artistically is not new. It was a feature of a controversial national gallery portrait a couple of years ago.

The lifestyle issue that puts him in the papers involves the \$27-million public cost of upgrading his rural place in the village of Nkandla. His other official residents are Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban.

With challenges to his ANC leadership ahead next month from his deputy president Kgalema Motlanthe, the media attention could create an unwanted tipping point for Mr Zuma.

Economist urges trade help for developing Commonwealth

Columbia University Economics Professor Joseph Stiglitz, a former senior vice-president and chief economist at the World Bank, says the developed Commonwealth must facilitate more trade to help the poorest and most vulnerable member-nations' economies – and survival.

In several forums, including a recent round table at Marlborough House, he has urged the need for an id-for-trade program of financial and technical assistance. This will allow developing countries to enhance their ability to produce goods and services to, and participate fully in, global trade.

Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize winner, is known for his right-to-trade thinking and work on globalization and free trade.

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and 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 8, 2012

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.*



Join us on FACEBOOK

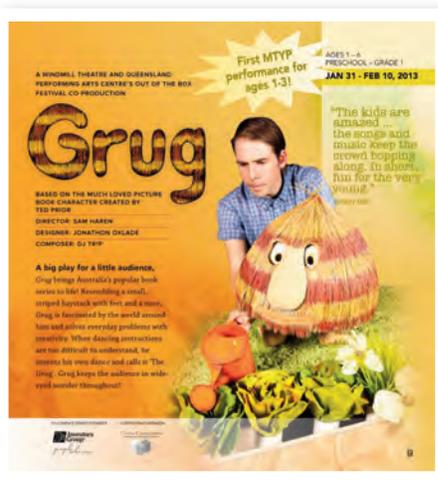
If you are on Facebook, remember to Like us at www.facebook.com/pages/Down-Under-Club-of-Winnipeg/115975501754598 so we can keep you up to date with downunder going on here, there and everywhere. We now have 69 friends around the world, so Like us and be part of our online community.

whoknew?

Things you may not know

... about *The Southern Yarn*

1. Our first editor was Jacqueline Cassel-Vernon. Jenny took over for the May 1995 issue.
2. The original name of the newsletter was *DUCW News*. It was changed to *The Southern Yarn* in June 2000 after a Club-wide contest to find a new name and a new Club logo — both provided by the McGill family.
3. Initially, the newsletter was designed by the editors until June 2000 when Brian Hydesmith took over the task of designing each issue. And wasn't that a great treat for us all!
4. The original page numbering and the eucalyptus illustrations on the *DUCW News* were hand drawn. Does anyone know by whom?
5. Our longest advertiser was Molly's Meat Pies. They started with us after the 1993 Folklorama pavilion, and became a regular contributor in December 1997.
6. The message on Molly's ad was specially written for every issue. In all, there were 151 different messages.
7. Look very closely and you will see snow atop the words "DOWN UNDER" in the subtitle on page 1. The snow has been there since August 2004.
8. In 2005, we started making the newsletter available online.
9. The editor's editor is and always will be Gordon Keatch!
10. The new editor for the newsletter is... Sorry, you'll have to wait until the next issue to find that out!



Grug @ MTYP

January 31 to February 10, 2013, 45 minutes
Australia's popular book series *Grug* is coming from Adelaide to Winnipeg! This is MTYP's first show ever for theatre lovers as young as one, and members of the DUCW are invited to bring their children aged 1 to 6 to see this wonderful play. In the words of Lian Ferrer, "Everything theatre should be: imaginative, expertly performed and completely captivating." For more info and the trailer, visit: www.mtyp.ca/grug.cfm. For tickets, contact the MTYP box office at 204-942-8898.

advertising

Advertise in *The Southern Yarn*. Contact Jenny (204-228-9959, info@downunderclub.mb.ca) for the rates. Send submissions by email or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.

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 30 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 • Media/Communications (Newsletter editor)**

If anyone is interested and willing to take on any of these positions, please contact Gordon Keatch at **832-4405**, or attend the meeting and let your name stand.

This issue of *The Southern Yarn* is dedicated to our editor, Jenny Gates. This small publication has provided interesting news and cohesion for our club. We have Jenny to thank for spending many hours each month collecting, writing and editing. We thank her for all her work.

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The Southern Yarn

December 2012



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

December downundercalendar 2012

DECEMBER

Sunday December 16
note the date change
Christmas Party AND Potluck
Dinner, 4:00 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Santa is getting all his reindeer ready to bring your gifts to our Christmas Party. And if you haven't let Head Elf Margaret know that you will be there and hoping for a gift from Santa, ask your parents to contact her TODAY at social@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-237-1805. This is a POTLUCK DINNER, so be sure to bring mostly mains, salads and veggie dishes, as well as a few desserts. Get your names and ages in now!

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

Australia / Waitangi Day
Date to be advised.



Your current DUCW executive (from left): Charlie Powell (Newsletter Editor), Peter Debenham (Treasurer), Terry Roberts (President), Peter Munn (Vice President), Margaret Munn (Secretary), and Norm Griffiths (Membership). The position of Social Coordinator remains available.

Annual and general

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.

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If you are on Facebook, remember to Like us at www.facebook.com/pages/Down-Under-Club-of-Winnipeg/115975501754598 so we can keep you up to date with downunder goings on here, there and everywhere. We now have 69 friends around the world, so Like us and be part of our online community.



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The Down Under Club AGM was held 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 30, 2012, at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre. 14 members came out to elect and vote for the upcoming year's executive. There were few changes with Terry Roberts, Peter Munn, Peter Debenham, and Margaret Munn keeping their previous positions. The board welcomes newcomers Norm Griffiths to the position of memberships and Charlie Powell

as newspaper editor, and bids a fond farewell and a huge thank you to Jenny Gates. Jenny has been our newspaper editor for the past 17 years. The position of social convenor is vacant. Following the elections we enjoyed a sampling of wine and cheese, and a lot of enjoyable conversations. Thanks to Judy and Charlie Powell for organizing the food and manning the bar.

- By Margaret Munn, Secretary

Farewell, Friend!

Long-time DUCW member Archie Orlikow passed away on Thursday, December 6 at the ripe old age of 90. Archie was described by some of those who knew him as "a terrific ... story teller", "truly a gentle man" and "a wonderful person and human being" who always had "a smile on his face" and was known for his "professional dedication, devotion to [his] family and overall kindness". Many of us will remember Archie as a permanent fixture at our ANZAC Day commemoration until recent years, when ill health kept him away from our services. Rest easy, Archie!



Archie, centre, was an enthusiastic and committed participant at our annual ANZAC Day Commemorations. Photo: Brian Hydesmith.

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



Well Jenny, after 17 and a bit years, 208 issues, and a conservative estimate of penning a million words and editing more than 1.5 million”, I dips me lid to you! As I’m sure all the *Yarn* readers do. Thank you! It’s going to be a hard act to follow. Best wishes with whatever you put your literary mind to – hopefully there will still be the odd creative contributions to future *Southern Yarns*.

Many members have said how much they value this newsletter, so it’s vital we keep churning it out and keeping all informed. Please continue to send in your ideas, stories, news and photos and we’ll see that they’re shared. Also let us know of any potential new members and advertizers.

Check out Gordon Keatch’s series of Club history and updates (page 6) – very enlightening reading! As someone who has been very involved in our last 4 Folklorama pavilions, as coordinator of volunteers, I really appreciate the way the Club continues to reward that effort. Many of us put in long hours for those pavilions to help generate the income that now continues to sustain regular activities. Practically every event is subsidized to some degree – hall rental for all gatherings at the SCC, wine at the Formal Dinner, wine and cheese, Christmas toys, drinks and munchies around the pool, disaster donations, etc.. A pretty good deal, I reckon, that allows us to socialize with our mates on the cheap. Hopefully we’ll be able to muster the support to do another pavilion in 2 or 3 years, and top up the pot again.

Get to know Tom and Pat Larkin (p. 4) and keep up with news from other parts of the Commonwealth (p. 5).

Enjoy!
Charlie

As you may know we had our Down under club AGM last week, though by the turn out most of you didn’t realise it was being held on Friday night at the Scandi-navian Club. The turnout was less than expected for reasons I will not discuss here.

Board members are President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, stay the same. This year we have a new membership person; Norman Griffiths joins us on the board and Newsletter editor will be Charlie Powell after Jenny stepped down after many years to pursue other endeavours. The position of

president's ramblings

Terry Roberts



Social Co-ordinator is again unfilled. We will do our best to make the most important events still happen.

Afterwards we had a bit of a get together and wine and cheese put on by Charlie and Judy Powell.

Thanks again.

The Christmas party is on the 16th of this month so we hope to see you there.

Have a very ‘Merry Christmas’ and a ‘Happy New Year’. Please don’t drink and drive

100 years ago...

NEW ZEALAND STUD SHEEP FOR ARGENTINE.

Wairarapa Daily Times,
Volume LXIV, Issue 11539,
11 December 1912, Page 5:
Messrs Dalgety and Co., Ltd., shipped stud Romney Marsh and Lincoln sheep to Argentine clients.” [link].

See story: Nancy Wake, b. 1912, on page 3

Messrs Dalgety and Co., Ltd., Wellington, have been successful in obtaining a number of orders from Argentine clients to purchase stud sheep, and per the s.s. Tainui, which sailed on the 28th November, they shipped 4 stud Romney Marsh rams bred by Mr R. Campbell Ellis, of Wakefield, Nelson; one of these sheep took champion prize at the Nelson show., and 12 stud Lincoln rams from Mr W. H. Wybourne’s flock. Mr Wybourne’s sheep are in demand, as per the s. s. Rotorua, which sail on the 12th December, Dalgety and Co., Ltd., are shipping 50 stud Lincoln rams and two stud Lincoln ewes, from the flock of this breed.

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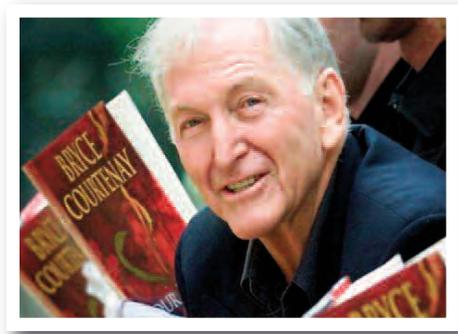
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More than 40 years’ South Pacific experience



Bryce

Family, friends and fans all hailed him as one of Australia's greatest storytellers.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Opposition Leader Tony Abbott and Arts Minister Simon Crean praised the 2012 National Year of Reading ambassador.

"Bryce's writing encouraged countless people to discover or rediscover the joy of books and reading," Mr Crean said.

Hundreds of heartfelt comments were posted on his Facebook page, which has more than 71,000 followers.

South Africa-born Courtenay, who moved to Australia in the 1950s, had stomach cancer. He died at 11.30pm on Thursday at his home in Canberra, with his wife, Christine, son Adam and his beloved pets Tim, the dog, and Cardamon, the Burmese cat, by his side.

Author Fiona Macintosh, considered his protege, said his gift to the world was his ability to inspire readers and writers.

"He's one of the greatest storytellers for Australia and history will attest to that," Macintosh said.

"Nearly every year for the past 25 years he has given Australian readers a grand story to get lost in, and usually about Australia, about themselves, about their own people, or our neighbours. I think that's how he'll be remembered."

Courtenay penned 21 books including *The Power of One*, *The Persimmon Tree* and *Jessica*.

His publisher, Penguin Books Australia, released a statement on behalf of the family thanking all his fans and friends for their love and support as he wrote the final chapter of his life.

"We, as well as his many fans, will forever miss Bryce's indomitable spirit, his energy and his commitment to storytelling," Penguin Australia chief executive Gabrielle Coyne said.

His friend of 44 years, Alex Hamill, who worked with Courtenay for five years at

George Patterson's advertising agency, said the author transferred his ability to entertain and engage people from advertising to selling books.

"You never forgot him when he walked into a room. Bryce owned the room and had the ability to read an audience," Mr Hamill said.

Courtenay published *Jack of Diamonds* this month.

Friend and novelist Di Morrissey said she loved Courtenay's passion "for everything".

"He fought so hard to take away the pretentiousness attached to writing and reading, and make books accessible, that popular fiction should be held up there with great pride," Morrissey said.

Thriller writer Matthew Reilly said Courtenay paved the way for mass-market authors such as him.

"I thank him for that and my deepest sympathies to his family," Reilly said.

All of Courtenay's books became best-sellers, selling more than 100,000 copies each.

Long-time publisher and friend Bob Sessions of Penguin Australia said Courtenay was the Charles Dickens of Australian writers.

"He had strong plotlines, sometimes grotesque characters and people often came away from his books feeling like they had learned something about the world around them."

The father-of-three became a Member of the Order of Australia in 1995 and was also honoured with a postage stamp after being named an Australia Post Literary Legend.

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Shackleton re-enactment planned

Expedition leader Tim Jarvis announced his vision to become the first to authentically re-enact Sir Ernest Shackleton's perilous voyage from Elephant Island to South Georgia and then dangerous crossing of its unmapped mountainous interior. Jarvis has chosen his teammates for their determination, passion for adventure and their unique expedition and ocean sailing skills.

To this day, no-one has successfully recreated Shackleton's complete 'double' journey across sea and land, let alone using



traditional gear. British/Australian adventurer Jarvis, 46, a veteran of multiple polar expeditions, believes it will be the most challenging expedition of his life. "It will be one that will test my team and me to the limits," he said.

The re-enactment has been in development since 2008, when Alexandra Shackleton, granddaughter of Sir Ernest, approached Jarvis with the idea of an expedition to mark the centenary of one of the greatest leadership and survival stories of all time.

In early January, Jarvis and his crew will be in Punta Arenas, Chile, ahead of their attempt on around 17 January to emulate Shackleton's voyage across 800 nautical miles of the world's most challenging and treacherous seas - the Southern Ocean - sailing from Elephant Island to South Georgia aboard Alexandra Shackleton, an exact replica of Shackleton's 22.5' (6.9m) whaler, the *James Caird*. On arrival at South Georgia Jarvis and two of his crew will traverse its mountainous interior to reach the former whaling station at Stromness.

Sir Ernest Shackleton has been called 'the greatest leader that ever came on God's earth, bar none,' (Sir Raymond Priestley, member of the Nimrod expedition 1907-1909) for saving the lives of the 27 men stranded with him in Antarctic pack ice for over a year.

Watch a video clip at: the New Zealand Herald and follow www.shackletonpic.com

Nancy Wake (1912-2011)

Nancy Wake - the French resistance heroine and most decorated woman of World War II - has died in London aged 98. Nancy was born in New Zealand.

Branded "The White Mouse" by the Gestapo, she became the most wanted resistance fighter in France with a five million franc bounty upon her head. Far from a "mouse", Nancy Wake led a force of 7000 resistance fighters operating on the front-line and once, during an attack on an Arms Factory, killing a sentry with a karate chop to the neck. In her later years, she would often say how she wished she had killed more Germans - an indication of how far she was prepared to go to stop the spread of Nazi Germany.

In 2001, HarperCollins published Peter FitzSimons' biography of Nancy, a book which has now sold more than 155,000 copies in Australia and New Zealand. [link: <http://www.booksellers.co.nz/book-news/nancy-wake-1912-2011> .

Tom and Pat Larkin

As Tom's father was a Royal Canadian Artillery soldier, their family was transferred throughout Canada at the pleasure of Her Majesty's Forces.

Tom was born in Truro, Nova Scotia, in 1956. Shortly thereafter, however, his father was transferred to Shilo, MB. Various short duration transfers eventually terminated when Tom Larkin, Sr. was transferred to Winnipeg in the mid 1960s. The family was finally able to put down roots in St. James-Assiniboia, with Tom attending various schools in the Heritage Park and Crestview area. The family moved to Red Lake, ON, in the early 1970s when Tom's dad retired. It was here that Tom completed grades 11 and 12.

Tom joined the RCMP right out of high school at the age of 19 in 1975. Upon graduating from the RCMP Depot Training Academy in Regina, SK, he served his formative years in such Manitoba communities as Leaf Rapids, Norway House and Cross Lake. While stationed in Norway House, Tom ferreted out a beautiful nurse he spied whilst attending the Norway House hospital one night shift. The nurse with the radiant smile turned out to be Pat Alward.

Unbeknownst to Pat and Tom, they both grew up in Winnipeg within blocks of each other, although attended different schools. Upon Tom's transfer to Beausejour, MB, in 1978, Pat relocated to Pine Falls, MB, where she assumed the role of Public Health Nurse on Fort Alexander First Nation Reserve. Tom and Pat were married in Beausejour in 1979.

A transfer to Winnipeg in 1981 afforded Pat and Tom an opportunity to pursue additional education, Pat graduating from the Health Science Centre's Intensive Care program and Tom from Red River College's Com-



puter Programmer/Analyst program. Winnipeg is also the birthplace of Pat and Tom's children, Sean (1983) and Shannon (1985).

In 1986 Tom was transferred to the RCMP's computer directorate in Ottawa. Missing the west, the Larkin's were transferred to British Columbia in 1989 where Tom served the rest of his career as an auditor/educator for Canada's national police computer system, the "Canadian Police Information Centre", save for a 6-month temporary assignment as a United Nations peacekeeper to the UNTAG mission in Namibia in 1989-90.

It was during Tom's UN mission that Pat stoically resisted the urge to sell the house in Langley so she, Sean and Shannon could escape the incessant rainy and gloomy winter skies of the west coast and return to sunny Manitoba!

During the west coast years, Pat and Shannon pursued their passion for equestrian whilst Tom and Sean discovered their love of flying. Tom eventually became a flight instructor, and taught Sean his Commercial Pilot Licence, while Pat and Shannon became equestrian coaches.

Pat and Tom returned to Manitoba in 2008 upon Tom's retirement, having served 32 years in the Force. They reside on a small farm on the east side of Birds Hill Park. Pat continues to enjoy the health care profession as a Staff Development and Infection Control

nurse, while Shannon has also followed her passion to care for others as a paramedic. Tom is a flight instructor at Winnipeg Aviation at St. Andrew's airport.

While touring Europe in 2007 Sean met a young lady, Sheree Philp, daughter of Helen and John Philp of Taperoo, Adelaide, SA. It was during Sheree's residence with Pat and Tom during 2009, while Sean was flying Dash 8 in the Congo for the UN, that it was revealed Sheree was in Canada not to reside, but to "collect" her future spouse and return to Oz! To this day it is a standing point of humour within the Larkin family.

In 2011 Pat, Shannon and Tom travelled to Adelaide to witness and participate in the joyous fusion of two families so remote and separated. Tom sought out the DUCW upon their return to Canada to help them retain, appreciate and enjoy the adoption of their new culture.

Sean and Sheree reside in Darwin, NT, with Sheree working for Care Flight air ambulance service and Sean flying for Qantas Link. They recently purchased their first home in Darwin. They have a 4 week trip home to Canada planned for the last week of February. Opportunity permitting, the Larkins are hoping to introduce Sean and Sheree to DUCW members.

It appears that these European (and other) tours sure bring people together!

- Gordon Keatch

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Do Brits see Commonwealth trade preferences as substitute for a faltering Europe trade deal?

The Commonwealth needs upgrading. Everyone knows it, no matter how remote their link to this massive institution. And initiatives are under way for change. But the oh-so-democratic structure of the 54-nation club makes meaningful change difficult, if not impossible.

Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand – the founding dominions – bear two-thirds of the cost. But though they pay big, the democratic membership permits only one vote to each member.

So, for example, on the issue of erasing the archaic and intimidating criminal defamation law negative votes by Nigeria and South Africa, which maintain such legislation, could stop universal change. Or what of capital punishment? Half the Commonwealth countries apply it. And sodomy penalties? They're a factor in much of the African Commonwealth.

Such issues and others got a somewhat sensational airing last month when top boss, Secretary-General Karmalesh Sharma, was rather more garrulous than usual in a very free-wheeling London chat over lunch with two writers from the Economist. It generated an article cleverly titled, *The Empire Strikes Back*.

That chat covered his delight with the picturesque views he gets from his sumptuous Mayfair "mansion" and his worldwide travels with junketing staff.

This at a time, the article notes, when a recent poll allows that while "the Commonwealth runs a decent sports championship [it] is otherwise cash-strapped, unsure of its purpose and increasingly obscure." And half the poll respondents in Britain and Canada could not name any Commonwealth activity.

However, some Brit Conservatives are chafing for an exit from the weakening European Union, and are positing that the Commonwealth might provide a template for an alternative trade regime. After all, Commonwealth borders, spanning five continents, shelter more than a "third of the world's people". With a growth potential of 7%, this far exceeds Europe's expectations. The irony of such a change will not be lost in New Zealand, whose farmers in 1973 bitterly lost preferred status to French farmers in accessing the British market.

Expect the issues, positive and negative, to get shrill attention in the new year.

NZ fighting to hold its rank as world's No. 3 purveyor of dairy products

It used to be that Kiwis just smiled coyly when reminded their sheep-to-human ratio was seven to one. They like it that way (notwithstanding the kidding about woolly friendships), but the sheep's status is under threat by the dairy industry, which says cows (in national trade terms) are No. 1.

The Economist had it right last month with the headline "Land of Milk and Money" over a story saying dairying garnered 25% of the nation's exports. But all that comes with a worry that the massive international Fonterra co-operative prevails over 90% of the local market, reporting \$16.4 billion in revenue. So any change in its ownership, as it is reported, is greeted apprehensively by the dairying community, about a fifth of whose exports go to China.

Learning an Asia language could be the rule in Oz schools

Aussie White Paper wants Asia experts in schools, businesses and bureaucracies

Julia Gallard, Australia's Prime Minister, has clearly transformed her early casual attitude to Asia. Instead of Asia just being "the countries you fly over getting to Europe", it is going to be made priority geography for Canberra's foreign affairs attention.

The country that in mid-last century warned of repelling "yellow peril" immigrants, traders and travellers, Australia has come full circle. The country must change to address what's called the Asian Century, and what's more do it by 2025, according to the White Paper.

Clearly the flow of immigrants has slowed from Europe. In their place seven of 10 Asian countries are the prime sources of immigrants, led by India and China. Mandarin now beats out Italian as the dominant language after English.

To make this happen, Gallard has set objectives for a large swath of society. Every school should be paired to an Asian one and students learn a priority Asian language, she says. A third of civil servants and business execs, including board members, should be Asian experts in the next decade. And new visa rules will open the gates to Asian settlement.

The public reaction to this? Likely reserved when it sinks in, most of the surveys show. It will be a harder sell than it sounds.

New restrictions or bans proposed on crass exploitation of Antarctic seas

Barriers are being set up to curb ruthless commercial exploitation of the largely pristine Antarctic seas. Already large scale fishing fleet harvesting of krill, toothfish are taking a toll so the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources are weighing proposals to create marine protected areas extending from the Antarctic continent well out to sea. France and the European Union want 733,000 square miles to be set aside, barred to fishing fleet exploitation and commerce such as mining. New Zealand and the United States want the Ross Sea similarly protected. British concern is directed at areas where the Antarctic ice shelf has collapsed.

A coalition of about 30 environmental organizations favors such a ring of protected areas around the continent. The positions were raised and aired at a Hobart, Tasmania meeting of the Antarctic commission. Applying these ideals will likely be more problematic than proposing them.

Tasmania upper house to dictate when you're too old to smoke

Anti-cigarette opposition is getting more and more strident in Australia.

Now the Upper House in Tasmania's bicameral legislature wants sales to be banned to anyone born in this millennium.

Tight restrictions are already in place nation-wide on cigarette use. They'll be tougher soon. Logo display limits will extend even to the packaging. Packs may not include brand names or any claim to taste or pleasure. Instead they will carry sickening illustrations of lung tumours and blackened scabby tongues.

Cigarettes are not on show in stores. Rather they are to be kept in below-the-counter cupboards or drawers. After the plain-packaging law takes effect on December 1 any corner-store owner brave enough to sell a branded pack faces a \$200,000 fine – or worse, bankruptcy.

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 Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the Royal Military Institute (Manitoba) and The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.

whoknew?

Things you may not know

History of The Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc.

The genesis of the Down Under Club goes back to World War II, and in particular, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Under that agreement, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand undertook to train aircrews for the war effort. Canada was chosen as the ideal location for the more than 100 training schools that were required for the student fliers.

In all, more than 131,000 air crewmen had graduated by the end of the war, including 9,600 Australians and 7,000 New Zealanders. Most initial courses lasted about nine months, and although training was intense, there was apparently plenty of time to fraternize with the locals (read 'sheilas'). After the war, many who had married Canadian girls emigrated to Manitoba, ultimately leading to the formation of the Club.

One of the earliest to return was Mick Miller who married Betty in Winnipeg in 1946. Other expatriates in the city at that time would regularly get together in Mick's office under the guise of the 'Down Under Club'.

Our first significant function was an ANZAC Day parade in 1949. We borrowed a huge Australian flag from the Free Press and draped it around the Cenotaph. The then Mayor of Winnipeg, Garnet Coulter, placed a wreath on behalf of the city. In response to the media coverage the service received, members of the General Monash Branch, Royal Canadian Legion asked if they could join us at future services, and have done so since 1950. We have also attended many of each other's social events.

By now, the Club was growing in numbers, and held bi-weekly 'meetings' in the beer parlour of the Royal Alexandra Hotel (Main and Higgins). We then moved to the Army, Navy, Air Force Clubrooms on Young Street, south of Portage Ave for a few years before deciding to meet in members' homes. During those early years, Laurie Myers ran a trailer manufacturing business which also produced a lot of scrap lumber. Some of us would get together after hours and make wooden toys for Christmas which we donated to the Salvation Army.

Between 1950 and 1971, social events were held at various night clubs around the city Roseland Dance Gardens, Chan's Cafe, Copacabana, and Club Morocco. Christmas

and New Year's parties were usually at someone's home.

For our 25th Anniversary, a social and dance was held at the Sturgeon Creek Masonic Hall on Ness Avenue.

Tickets were \$1.50 per person and drinks 40c each! These annual Dinner Dances continued for several years at the Winnipeg Flying Club, the Wildewood Club and Niakwa Country Club. In an attempt to attract a wider membership, we held a reception in 1986 at the Ramada Inn, Pembina Highway. More than 100 people showed up, including the Australian Consul-General from Vancouver. The following January, a showing of Australian and New Zealand films at the Museum of Man and Nature drew close to 200 people.

Though we appeared to have the numbers, lack of a suitable meeting place continued to restrict our activities. During 1992, we were approached by Sue Gel and others to see if the Club could be expanded. In October, we held a very successful social, and the more than \$1,300 that was raised allowed us to sponsor the first Folklorama Pavilion the following year. Also in 1993, we became incorporated as the Down Under Club of Winnipeg Inc., adopted bylaws, elected a board, and were well on our way to a new beginning.

Monthly meetings were held at the Fort Rouge Legion and later at the Norwood / St. Boniface Legion. (Meetings are now held at the Scandinavian Club.) A second Folklorama Pavilion in 1994 resulted in even more exposure for the Club. Monthly meetings and social events such as picnics, pool parties, formal dinners, Halloween and Christmas parties, cricket matches, bingo bowling, and special theme nights have provided members with a great variety of entertainment.

Our monthly newsletter, in its current format, is a first-class publication and very informative for our 120-plus members. Electronic access to both Australian and New Zealand papers, members' contributions, suggestions and reports, and a growing awareness of all things 'down under' have helped make the newsletter one of the best in the country.

— Gordon Keatch

Read more in next month's issue of *The Southern Yarn*.

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in Winnipeg by



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Margaret Munn

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Pakistani army's tough talk rings hollow in the Malala case

Pakistanis led the call in the world condemnation of the Pakistani Taliban assassination attempt on Malala Yousufzai, the 15-year-old outspoken schoolgirl heroine.

But words and emotion are cheap, and while the act is roundly condemned, the fact that it is Taliban driven seems to have faded from the initial rhetoric. Indeed, General Ashfaq Kayani, the army chief generally regarded as tough on the rebels in Swat Valley, settled only for tough talk after visiting Malala in hospital. "We will prevail," he said. But there has been no evidence of material action against the terrorists' lairs in North Waziristan.

Not even President Ashfaq Kayani's call for "practical measures" to be taken has stirred military action. And indeed in the populists' sympathy, there seems little stomach for calls for a bloody showdown or even a negotiated peace with Taliban.

Perhaps a national election in coming months will stir some resolve beyond platitudes. Meanwhile, Malala's recovery in Birmingham is progressing well and her bravery has stirred talk of a Nobel Peace Prize candidacy.

On this subject, last month I suggested Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina's legal offensive against Muhammad Unus, 72, the champion of economic empowerment of women with his Grameen Bank wasn't doing the women's cause any favours. While true, I neglected to balance the criticism with the fact that under her administration, the lot of Bangladeshi women has improved outstandingly in recent years - family planning, dulling religion's impediments to human rights including resistance to education of girls. The fact remains Sheikh Hasina, a Moslem, is acting contemptibly towards women's rights in this Grameen case.

Researchers develop coconut-flavoured pineapple

By Jo Skinner

In what is believed to be a world first, Queensland researchers have created a new variety of pineapple with a coconut flavour. The Department of Agriculture's research station on the state's Sunshine Coast has been working on the new breed of pineapple for more than a decade.

Senior horticulturalist Garth Senewski says the AusFestival pineapple is now in the final stages of production.

"It's currently being multiplied by our commercial development partner," he said.

"It usually takes about 10 years to commercialise a new variety."

He says its unique taste should prove popular with consumers.

"Taste tests tell us that AusFestival is a winner - it has this lovely coconut flavour, which you won't find in any other pineapple in Australia," he said.

"It's sweet, low acid, very juicy."

But he says researchers did not set out to create a coconut flavour.

"When we're doing the breeding, we're not actually looking for a coconut-flavoured pineapple or any other particular flavour," he said.

"We're looking for a nice flavoured pineapple.

"We're looking for a variety that is sweet, low acid and aromatic."

It will be another two years before AusFestival is commercially available.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-12-05/qld-researchers-develop-coconut-flavoured-pineapple/4408732>

Contributed by Ed Powell

Woman opposition leader's trial dulls Rwanda's shiny progress

As the newest member of the Commonwealth, Rwanda has generated some impressive qualities to win a reputation as economically forward, the least corrupt and best-administered nation in the sub-Sahara, with a steadily improving reduction of poverty.

But that doesn't mean it's perfect. And highlighting that is its treatment of Victoire Ingabire, leader of an opposition party. Her party had the temerity to challenge the leadership of President Paul Kagame, Rwanda's no-nonsense and somewhat high-handed administrator. He has a reputation for having little patience with the niceties that interfere with his trains-on-time policies.

It is in these circumstances that Ms Ingabire was found guilty in high court of belittling the 1994 genocide and conspiring in terrorism. This won her a sentence to eight years in prison under the controversial genocide ideology laws.

It is not likely any opposition party poses an election threat to Kagame, but his sensitivity to challenge is clear. This, and recent reports of Rwandan forces, illegally operating in neighboring Congo, is diminishing the blush from its successes.