

The Southern Yarn

April 2013



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

APRIL

ANZAC Day

Saturday, April 27th, 6:00 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

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

MAY

TGIF Speaker Series

Friday, May 24, 2013

Scandinavian Cultural Centre

Reception: 5:30, Dinner 6:00 pm

The SCC's guest speaker will be (Aussie and DUCW member) Tim Sinclair-Smith, Director of Zoological Operations at Assiniboine Park Zoo. Tim will be speaking on the International Polar Bear Conservation Centre & how he is dedicated in making Assiniboine Park Zoo one of Canada's leading facilities in conservation, research & education.

Tickets: \$17.50 each, reservations recommended – call **204-774-8047**.

scandinaviancc@shawcable.com

JUNE

Morning at The Zoo

Saturday June 15, 8:50 AM

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. We are limited to 25 people, so we encourage those who missed out last time to get their names in now by calling Lynley at **204-275-7631 ASAP**. And then we will open the list up to others. 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).

Australian Victoria Cross recipient

The Victoria Cross (VC) is a military decoration awarded for valour "in the presence of the enemy"[1] to members of the Australia Armed Forces. It may be awarded to a person of any rank in any service, and to civilians under military command. Being the highest award in the Australian Honours Order of Precedence, the Victoria Cross takes precedence over all other postnominals and Australian orders and decorations. The Victoria Cross was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1856, initially to reward acts of valour during the Crimean War. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

The following is the account of just one of the nine Victoria Cross recipients from the Gallipoli Campaign.

Private John (Patrick) Hamilton

Unit: 3rd Battalion

Born 24 January 1896 at Orange, NSW.

Action: 9 August 1915 in Lone Pine trenches, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey

The Turks had launched a violent general attack extending along much of the front. The northern part of the assault was directed at the junction of the 3rd and 4th Battalions. At Sasse's Sap the enemy forced the Australians back but were ousted by a counter-attack. Later the enemy forced the barricade and streamed up the sap towards the 3rd Battalion headquarters. The adjutant of the 3rd Battalion instructed several men to get out on the parapet and attack the Turks in the trench and those coming across open ground. Hamilton, under the cover of a few sandbags, lay out in the open shouting to those in the trenches where best to land their bombs while he kept up constant



sniping fire against the Turkish bomb throwers. His example had much to do with the enemy being driven off during this attack.

Died: 27 February 1961 Buried or Commemorated, Woronora Cemetery, Sydney. Current location of the VC Australian War Memorial

Link: <http://www.anzacday.org.au/education/medals/vc/austlist.html>

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

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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Can you imagine summer?

Pool Party and Potluck

Saturday July 13, 2:00 pm
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.

online



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

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day, A few Club members were among the audience that got to preview the movie "The Sapphires" at the Cineplex Odeon on McGillivray Blvd recently. It tells the story of an all female Australian Aboriginal pop group in the '60s - based on fact and with plenty of humour, drama and romance as they tour Vietnam to entertain the USA troops. Certainly recommended viewing if you get the chance when it hits the screens.

Australians and New Zealanders also served in Vietnam: 521 Australians died and there were 3,000 wounded; there were 187 New Zealand wounded and 37 deaths. Like on Remembrance Day, we also gather on ANZAC Day to honour and express our gratitude to the many for their service and sacrifice in all campaigns, and to continue prayer for peace in our world. It is unfortunate, in this day and age with so much humanitarian need, that war and peace continue to demand so many precious resources.



On a brighter note, we had the pleasure of a rare visitor to our backyard last week - a Pileated Woodpecker. Such simple delights help us tolerate this extended wintry weather until its inevitable surrender to summer's surge.

See Lynley Davidson's 2-year update on life in **Christchurch**, NZ, after the devastating earthquakes in 2010-11 (p.6)

This month Gordon introduces **Alexandra Corcoran** to us (p. 4).

Thank you to this month's contributors - Brian Hydesmith, Lynley Davidson, Judy Powell, Jenny Gates, and our regulars, Murray and Gordon.

Enjoy!

Condolence

DUCW members send condolences to Elaine and Ed Clairmont on the recent passing of Elaine's mother, Gwen Goldberg, on April 5.

Greetings, Spring is here, but there is still a very large pile of snow in my front yard. Maybe next week it will arrive. There are some very confused geese out there at the dog park, wondering if they made a wrong turn somewhere on their journey north.

The club was fortunate to be invited to a gathering of the Friendship Club of Manitoba this last week to give them some insight into the DUCW and in particular the events surrounding Christchurch and how it is doing, 2 years after the earthquake. The friendship clubs do exchanges between countries with visitors staying in the homes of friendship members from the country



president's ramblings

Terry Roberts



being visited. Their interest in New Zealand is due to members travelling down to New Zealand and the proposed trip of members coming up from Christchurch. Unfortunately the Christchurch group has cancelled their proposed trip to Winnipeg due to the ongoing need to look after their own communities needs, but the Friendship Club here decided they would still be very interested to

meet us and tell them about Christchurch. Lynley Davidson gave them a talk about Christchurch today and I talked a little about the Down Under Club and New Zealand in general. Lynley being from close by to Christchurch talked about how the earthquake has affected the community and the ongoing struggle. The event seemed to be a success with many people asking questions and expressing interest in New Zealand. Thank you too to our support group who turned up to involved and spread the word among those present.

Next event is ANZAC, see you there.

Check out Lynley's discussion on page 6 of Christchurch two years after the big earthquake. Sights like these twisted tracks were shown.

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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience

Chocolate overtakes the traditional Australian meat pie

[Sophie Langley, April 4, 2013] New research has found that Australia's love of the traditional meat pie with sauce is waning, as chocolates and lollies as convenient snacks gain popularity with consumers. [link]



Although the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) has meant less impulse buying, the research from Australian industry research group BIS Shrapnel showed that people are still willing to buy confectionary through convenience stores, milk bars and other 'route trade' locations. Overall, confectionary as a total product category has seen a growth of 18 per cent in value since 2010 to \$711 million.

"This is typical consumer behaviour during tougher and uncertain economic times," said Rosengren. "Chocolates can be small and inexpensive, and we like to reward ourselves every now and then with a little treat," he said.

Chocolate dominates the confectionary category, making up two thirds of the category's \$457 million total value.

The growth in sweet snacks has effectively taken sales from the remaining edible options in the route trade market, with bakery products, ice cream and snack foods all experiencing declines in value since 2010. The number of confectioner route trade outlets has also increased, from an estimate 591 in 2010 to 662 in 2012, with the total market value almost tripling over the two-year period.

While meat pies still dominate the bakery products category, the Australian icon has seen a 9 per cent drop in market value since 2010, to \$79 million. The only two bakery products that have increased in value since 2010 are sausage rolls, which were up 4 per cent to \$46 million, and cakes, up 14 per cent to \$38 million. Biscuit sales also declined.

"Chocolate is quick to buy and eat, whereas meat pies are more of a lunch item. It's also much easier to eat a chocolate bar. A meat pie can be a struggle to eat when you're on the run, for instance," said Rosengren.

Sailing in the wake of the Vikings

An Australian adventurer is preparing for a pioneering trip along the waterways of Russia from the Arctic to the Black Sea, opening up a route that few foreigners have travelled since the days of the Vikings.

Sydney doctor John Vallentine, who spends half his time practising medicine and the other half sailing the world's oceans, is wading through marshes of bureaucracy to make the trip possible this northern summer.

His boat, the cruising cutter Tainui, is laid up in Tromso, Norway, after an exploratory trip Dr Vallentine made to St Petersburg last year.

He plans to set off from the Arctic port of Murmansk at the time of the summer solstice, when the midnight sun will illuminate his way down waterways long closed to foreigners. His route will take him past the Solovetsky Islands, used as gulags in Communist times, and down the infamous Belomor (White Sea) Canal, built by slave labour under Stalin. [link]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Herds Dried Off as Drought Spreads to South Island

[25 March 2013 NEW ZEALAND] Two districts on the west coast of the south island were included in the drought listing on Friday as the dry weather continues to impact farming.

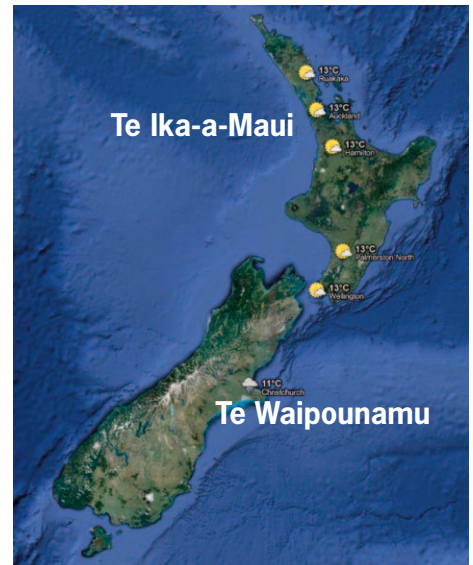
The usually wet Buller and Grey districts of the west coasts are suffering from the driest spell in 41 years and with forecasters predicting for the high pressure systems to divert weather fronts, the problems could stay for weeks.

Across these areas milking herds have

been forced to dry their herd up to two months early.

Minister for Primary Industries, Nathan Guy said: "It is very unusual for the West Coast to experience drought conditions and is not something that local farmers are used to. It shows just how extreme this dry period has been."

"Conditions have deteriorated quickly, and local farmers have asked the Government to recognise the tough situation they are facing." [link]



The islands by other names

The country's two main islands could soon also be officially known as **Te Ika-a-Maui** and **Te Waipounamu**.

The New Zealand Geographic Board Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa Public is consulting the public about whether to formally assign official alternative Maori names to the North and South Islands.

The process means the English and Maori names could be officially used together or individually.

The move follows a proposal to change the name South Island to its original Maori name Te Waipounamu (the waters of greenstone) and the North Island to Te Ika-a-Maui (the fish of Maui), suggested after consultation.

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Alex and Tom

gettingtoknow...

members of our club

Alex Corcoran

Like most of our members, Alex has been around - a lot! Her father worked for an American bank and was in Switzerland when she was born. He was transferred to Italy, Egypt and Holland, and then to Sydney.

Alex took her primary schooling at various overseas locations, and secondary at Ravenswood in Sydney. She has a Diploma in Tourism and Human Resources (HR), and is fluent in English, French and Spanish. She worked as a French Language teacher at a private school in Sydney for two years. Then it was five months backpacking to Nepal and Europe before returning to Sydney in time for the Olympics. She volunteered with the French team in translation and administration work. She did similar duties with the Uruguayan team in the Paralympics.

Alex stayed in Sydney for four years working for Qantas in their catering division - with trips to Asia, Europe, and all over Australia. In 2006, she went for a holiday to South America, and liked it so much that she stayed for 16 months, living and working in Ecuador. It was then back to London for three years at the Tate Gallery in the catering department before returning to Sydney via India for four months. She then got work with Medibank as an HR specialist for 18 months.

And why Canada, or particularly Winnipeg? Her boyfriend, Tom, lives here. (Love

conquers all!) Their families knew each other years ago in Cairo. Alex arrived here last October and has finally obtained a work permit. She starts a new job soon with Macdonald Youth Services in their HR department.

Alex is an avid knitter - jumpers, scarves, etc., and also makes cheese, body lotions, and balms, etc.

The DUCW connection partly came about through a net search that led her to our website, but Alex also currently volunteers at the Winnipeg Art Gallery with Deloree McCallum, who is a fellow Toastmaster with Jenny Gates. Small world!

Alex and Tom are looking forward to joining us on ANZAC Day.

Gordon Keatch

Mob Roo's

You know a group of kangaroos is called a "mob", but did you know that you can soon meet the mob at the Assiniboine Park Zoo?

The Assiniboine Park Zoo is excited to announce that this spring and summer, visitors will have the opportunity to hop among the kangaroos (and emus) at the Zoo's newest permanent, seasonal exhibit - **Australian Walkabout**.

Scheduled to open May 17, Australian Walkabout will feature up to 14 female red kangaroos plus their young, as well as four emus. The exhibit will consist of an expansive outdoor enclosure similar in size to a school gymnasium, located just south of the Shirley Richardson Butterfly Garden inside the Zoo, where visitors will be able to enter the exhibit with the animals. The concept of walkabout exhibits is quite common in Australian zoological facilities but is rarely found in zoos in North America.

"We've never had an exhibit like this at the Assiniboine Park Zoo before," said Tim Sinclair-Smith, Director of Zoological Operations. "It's going to be an entirely new experience for our visitors - they will literally be able to walk around in the same space as the animals."

Known as docile and good natured animals, red kangaroos are the largest of all the kangaroo species and the largest mammal native to Australia. While they are not a new species to the Zoo, this is the first time they'll be part of an exhibit where visitors can get this close. The emu, also a native of Australia, is the second largest bird in the world by height after its relative, the ostrich.

The Assiniboine Park Zoo is open daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. with extended spring/summer hours of 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. [[link](#)].

100+ years ago

history from downunder

A Most Audacious Australian Prison Break

The plot they hatched was as audacious as it was impossible—a 19th-century raid as elaborate and preposterous as any Ocean's Eleven script. It was driven by two men—a guilt-ridden Irish Catholic nationalist, who'd been convicted and jailed for treason in England before being exiled to America, and a Yankee whaling captain—a Protestant from New Bedford, Massachusetts—with no attachment to the former's cause, but a firm belief that it was "the right thing to do." Along with a third man—an Irish secret agent posing as an American millionaire—they devised a plan to sail halfway around the world to Fremantle, Australia, with a heavily armed crew to rescue a half-dozen condemned Irishmen from one of the most remote and impregnable prison fortresses ever built. Read more: [[link](#)]





12-year-old son of Tamil Tiger leader executed after being given a snack



Balachandran Parabhakaran

Evidence of horrible extremism emerged last month from

embittered Sri Lanka with a series of execution pictures of Balachandran Parabhakaran, 12, son of Villupillai Prabhakaran, head of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

One view showed the little boy sitting in shorts and bare-chested, a shirt around his shoulders, seemingly calm. The next shows him, body spread obviously dead, with five bullet holes in his chest. Accompanying text says that after the first picture was taken he was given a snack and then executed in May 2009.

The shooting was attributed to Sri Lankan armed forces. Film director, Callum Macrae, testifying to the authenticity of the filmwork said:

"It is difficult to imagine the psychology of an army in which the calculated execution of a child can be allowed with apparent impunity. That these events were also photographed and kept as war trophies by the perpetrators is even more disturbing."

Sri Lanka authorities' interference silences the voice of BBC

The British Broadcasting Corporation's domestic programming in Sri Lanka was subject to such unacceptable official interruption and interference that it was suspended on March 26, Peter Horrocks, the world service director said.

"We regret the disruption in service to our loyal audiences in Sri Lanka, but such targeted interference in our programs is a serious breach of trust with those audiences, which the BBC cannot allow," Horrocks said.

In 2009, the BBC shut down its SLBC service under similar circumstances.

On this occasion Horrocks cited interference that took place on March 16-18 and again on March 25. He said he told SLBC they were "a serious breach of the broadcasting agreement" and as such forced the BBC to action. However, the BBC still maintains seven shortwave bands, three in Sinhalese and four in Tamil.

Australia's drugs-in-sport commission to eye imported Kiwi talent

Illegal drugs, organized crime and gambling that has blown through professional sport are creating turbulence in Australia, and Kiwi athletes are likely to feel the breeze.

Team members in rugby, rugby league, netball, and soccer can expect closer questioning and official scrutiny as they head for competition across the Tasman.

Several Kiwi sporting franchises play in Australian professional competitions, and many athletes are recruited by Australian clubs. It's easy to understand why the Australian Crime Commission can expect some cross pollination. The commission has already found that use of prohibited performance-enhancing substances is "widespread" in professional sports, its booming trade facilitated by organized crime.

Fairfax papers quoted Australian Federal Justice Minister Jason Clare as saying "athletes from a number of clubs in major Australian sporting codes are suspected of currently using or having used peptides."

The commission would not name clubs or players in its report and would not say if its concerns extended across the Tasman. New Zealand franchises were surprised to hear of the report's findings, and said they had not suspected such drug use.

In a brief statement, Neil Sorensen, NZRU general manager for professional rugby said the NZRU would be reviewing the commission report and its findings.

Blues chief executive Andy Dalton said the New Zealand sporting scene has no reason to be complacent.

"Given the global nature of the game we certainly need to be aware of it. I certainly haven't come across any incident in either match-fixing or drug-taking since I have been involved here."

McKinnon's Commonwealth memoir effectively frank

To those who watch Commonwealth affairs closely, the subject representing a third of the world's population, gets only skimpy attention in the news media. It's frustrating. It's not for want of interesting "stories" being out there.

And that's why Donald McKinnon's new book, *In the Ring: A Commonwealth Memoir*; (£20.00, ISBN: 978-1-90-873926-1) is such an asset on the scene at these tremulous times. As London reviewer Philip Murphy points out, "There are two obvious things to say about this memoir by (the) former Commonwealth Secretary-General (2000-2008....

The first is that it probably offers a stronger case for the enduring value of the Commonwealth than anything published in the past decade. The second is that it is unlikely to be warmly received in Marlborough House, the Secretariat's headquarters."

To say he's hard-headed is true but misleading. While frank and of a stature to discourage more than oral conflict, the big, bluff-speaking Kiwi farmer (3,500 nice acres), is a former NZ deputy prime minister and former foreign minister who has been around the block, as they say. And is about as authoritative as you could wish when faced with the niceties of Buckingham Palace and Marlborough House and international government protocol.

However, it's his frankness that makes the newsies and scholars of the subject salivate.

As reviewer Philip Murphy points out, those charged with communicating the Commonwealth's message sometimes fail to appreciate how quickly the public tires of platitudes.

"What they really want to know is whether the organization actually does anything useful. Here McKinnon delivers. Drawing on his personal and official papers, he gives a blow-by-blow account of protracted negotiations over Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Fiji, to mention just four of his more difficult cases.

"As those examples suggest, this is by no means a simple success story. Given the scale of the problems faced by these countries, this is almost inevitable; and where progress is achieved it can all too easily be thrown into reverse. But McKinnon makes a strong case for the value of keeping communications open and keeping talking."

In the Ring is also candid about the Commonwealth's sources of weakness. Principal among these is a lack of buy-in by some of the organization's most powerful and wealthy members, including the UK, Canada, Australia and India.

Murray Burt writes this Commonwealth column to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world. Enjoy.

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



New Zealand Two Years Later

New Zealand, Aotearoa the land of the long white cloud. Population 4 and a half million people. Where the sky is blue and nature is very green and there are 31 million sheep. Home of the best rugby team in the world, the All Blacks. Christchurch, known as the Garden City, was struck by a 7.1 earthquake on 4 September 2010, and a devastating after-shock of 6.3 on 22 February 2011, and then another 6.3 on 13 June 2011. Pre-earthquake population of 380,000 but, today, only 348,000. With estimated damage of 30 Billion. There have been more than 10,000 after-shocks recorded.

So where do you start? Some would argue with homes for those who have been homeless for 2 years, some would argue schools, or maybe a library, or a university, a swimming pool, or how about a new downtown?

The downtown, also known as the cbd (central business district) where there is no shortage of parking, is still closed off. Where, for the most part, they are still in the tear-down phase, and the rebuild is not really evident, although tourists are everywhere to be found. Christchurch, the garden city, is now known as the container city. In true kiwi style they just find new ways to do things. Finding real estate for your business doesn't exist, so they take shipping containers and turn them into shops and cafés and restaurants. Containers are also being used to protect houses from falling debris from future earthquakes. To beautify these containers, people will paint art on them or, if artistic talent is not your "thing", maybe you just knit or crochet - all in an effort to beautify the city.

Most of us don't think too much about how or where we keep our cereal, or jam for toast in the morning - it is normally at arm's reach. However, after three devastating earthquakes, they are now stored at ground level, for they are some of the worst things to

clean up every time there is a large quake.

You and I just put up our Christmas tree without hesitating as to where it goes. We will often just put it where we have put it every year. Not so for Cantabrians; it goes in a corner of a room so you can anchor it to the walls on two sides from different angles, so you won't lose precious ornaments that are of a sentimental value. After having to replace your TV three times, the set is now anchored to the wall from two different angles. The same goes for your computer screen.

Some of the hardest hit are places that rely on tourists, like Orana Park and Christchurch Museum, as the numbers of tourists heading to Christchurch are down and those that do go only want to visit the downtown area.

Residents who have chosen to stay are by far the most resilient, good humoured, optimistic and hard-working people that you can find.

Most locals will not talk to you about the earthquake unless you have lived through it, as they feel you just could not understand it, or understand the new way of life. It just is.

If you are interested in making a donation to help rebuild Christchurch you can do it at Christchurch Earthquake Appeal "Tomorrow Starts Here" by visiting www.christchurchappealtrust.org.nz where you can select what you would like to help with - whether it be museums or soccer fields for kids, the choice is yours. It is the New Zealand government site, the official global fundraiser for the recovery effort for Christchurch and the Canterbury region. Putting a city back together, puts its communities back together too.

Thank you all for your support two years ago when we ran our fundraiser "Hands up for NZ".

Lynley Davidson



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