# The March 2014 Souther of the Down under Club of WINNIPEG INC.

## **downunder**calendar

#### MARCH

*5-pin Bingo Bowling* Friday March 14th, 7:00 pm Windsor Park Lanes, 678 Elizabeth Rd

A great night out for bowlers and non-bowlers; we'll even take batsmen/women and Umpires! Teams and individuals are welcome. Fast, fun and fabulous for all ages. Bowling will be \$16 for adults, kids under 10 free, and includes, snack foods and prizes. Contact Terry (204-663-6549) to reserve your spot.

#### APRIL

ANZAC Day Saturday, April 26th, 6:00 pm Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

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

#### RSVP

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

#### Are your Membership dues paid for 2014?

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

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



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



Above: A Bristol BoxKite replica - the original of which, below, made history when it took to the skies on March 1, 1914 at Point Cook. Photo from Wikipedia.

Right: group portrait of the officers of the 68th Squadron of the Australian Flying Corps, taken on 7th December 1917.

## 100 years ago

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) traces its history back to the Imperial Conference held in London in 1911, where it was decided aviation should be developed within the Armed Forces of the British Empire. Australia implemented this decision, the only country to do so, by approving the establishment of the Central Flying School (CFS) in 1912. The location for the proposed school was initially to be at Duntroon, Australian Capital Territory, but in July 1913 Point Cook, Victoria, was announced as the preferred location. The first flights by CFS aircraft took place there in March 1914.

The Australian Flying Corps (AFC) was formed as a Militia unit, with staff and students to be selected from the Citizen Forces. After an abortive deployment to German New Guinea at the end of 1914 as part of the Aus-



tralian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, it earned a most creditable reputation in both Palestine and France during World War I as a part of the (First) Australian Imperial Force (AIF). The Australian Flying Corps remained part of the Australian Army until 1919, when it was disbanded along with the AIF. Although the Central Flying School continued to operate at Point Cook, military flying virtually ceased until 1920, when the Australian Air Corps was formed. (With information Wikipedia.)

If you think Flying Corps were early adopters, read more about very early New Zealand aviation on our back page!

#### **Bereavment**

Our sympathy to Joanne Debenham on the passing of her dad and DUCW member, Rolly (Roland) Goovaerts on 12th February.

editorially yours Charlie Powell



G<sup>'day,</sup> Our son Chris came across an interesting and very enlightening interview concerning war brides – there is a link on p.3. It is actually ABC's Dr Robyn Arrowsmith in conversation with Richard Fidler. Dr Arrowsmith has spent the past ten years researching the lives of Australia's war brides. The 'war brides' were young women who fell in love with American servicemen they'd met in Australia during the war in the Pacific.

Leaving behind their families and friends, they sailed to the other side of the world, risking much for the great adventure of a new life. *All The Way To The USA: Australian WWII War Brides* is published by Robyn Arrowsmith.

My Mum was a war bride, and although she and Dad did start married live in the USA after the war, they soon returned to Australia, which accounts for my accent and love of the sunburnt country. ANZAC Day will be commemorated next month (be sure to join us if you can on the 26th – see p.1), so there is an article from NZ about the restoration of a monument to Herewini Whakarua, First Maori Battalion, A Company, from Waitotara, in time for the 2015 centenary of the landing at Gallipoli (p.3). Gordon Keatch is still sharp for an old codger - he was on hand to nab new comers, Geoff and Marian Ashworth for an interview, at our Australia/Waitangi Day celebration last month. Their story is on p.4. And there is more interesting news, including Murray Burt's roundup from the Commonwealth. You know, we are winning this war with winter - so hang in there, put your feet up and ..

Enjoy!

harlie ...

If we thought January was cold, February did a good job of getting our attention also. Those people using the skating trail along the Red and Assiniboine rivers the past few weeks have been really bundled up to make sure they could really enjoy this activity. Near where we live in St. Vital, located at the southern end of Des

Meurons Avenue, lies Windsor Park golf course, which in Winter has groomed trails for cross country skiing. Windsor Park Nordic Centre is a not-for-profit nordic recreational facility maintained and operated by the Cross Country Ski Association of

president's president's

Manitoba (CCSAM) since 2000. It is open up to 10 hours daily, with the club house open and skis and poles available for rental. A family skiing pass costs \$12, and hot chocolate is available for you to warm up in the large clubhouse after spending time on the floodlit trails. So for something different, give it a go, you can check their website at http://windsorparknordic.ca

My wish is that by the time you read this, the weather will be edging to the warmer side of the scale, but I am not betting on it. See you at the Bowling night on Friday March 14, we always have a fun time there, ... Peter



## news*fromOz*

various sources, see web links in online edition

## Massive Cattle Drive Nears End

03 February 2014 AUSTRALIA - One of the biggest and longest cattle drives in recent memory is drawing to a conclusion. A 2,000 km drive has taken 18,000 cattle from central western Queensland along stock routes towards Hay, in the Riverina region of New South Wales. Pastoralist Tom Brinkworth bought the cattle from the Australian Agricultural Company. Head drover Bill Little told ABC rural that six of nine mobs had completed the journey while others had got delayed. Three mobs headed further east to make the most of seasonal feed conditions improving. These, he told ABC rural are still to reach Uardry station. Snags were hit throughout the journey with feed shortages and stock route regulations. Overgrazing became an issue because of a lack of rainfall. This did not upset the cattle, which were praised by Mr Little for their behaviour. -[Link].



A Gold Coast cruise ship terminal is one step closer after the State Government took the wraps off a \$5 billion plan for Queensland's biggest development on the Spit and Wavebreak Island.

## Broadwater

ASF China Property Consortium has been selected as the preferred developer of the Broadwater Marine Project, with designs showing a cruise ship terminal just inside the Seaway and an expanded Wavebreak Island with a 50-storey tower, low-rise residential buildings and several bridges to Southport. [Link]

## Love Beets Takes Off

OneHarvest has introduced Australians to a line of vacuum packed, ready-to-eat, fresh baby beetroot called LOVE BEETS. Peeled and freshly cooked in their own juices, with no added sugar or salt, LOVE BEETS are ready to be eaten as they are or to use in a salad, on a burger, or as the base of a fresh and healthy dip or juice.

They are available in the fresh food section at over 1400 stores across Australia, including leading supermarkets and greengrocers.

Marketing Manager for Love Beets, Helen Warren, said that Australians love beetroot, and the value of the canned market is approximately \$43 million per year. "However the fresh beetroot market is still a relatively small market," she said. [Link]



## Qantas is set to cut jobs and sell its Melbourne Airport terminal

Source: News Limited A large number of jobs will be abolished by the end of March as the airline seeks immediate savings.

And at least 1000 of the 5000 jobs across the group will go in 12 months.

The national carrier will use Thursday's announcement of half-yearly results to outline the ways is will slash \$2 billion from its national budget over three years.

A Qantas source said the numbers had moved "a bit every day" in recent weeks as decisions were finalised, but that the figure of 5000 had firmed up in recent days.

Qantas spokesman Andrew McGinnes declined to put a number on job losses.

"There is lots of speculation about what things we will or won't announce on Thursday, but we're not in a position to comment on that speculation," he said.

"We have said that we will be making some tough decisions in order to achieve \$2 billion in cost savings over the next three years, which is a consequence of an unprecedented set of market conditions now facing Qantas." [Link].

#### Top Banjo Paterson bush ballads

If you're a fan of the Aussie bard, go to Australian Geographic to find out his top ten iconic ballads. [Link]

## **Aussie War Brides**

Was your Mum a war bride? If so, or if you are interested in a very enlightening interview, go to www.aussiewarbrides.com.au. [Link]

BUSH BALLADS

## newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

#### Kiwis in Australia to rally against 'unjust' immigration laws

New Zealanders living in Australia are protesting tonight against "incredibly unjust and discriminative" immigration laws.

The protests, organised by the `Iwi n Aus Foundation', took place across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia in February.

The group says legislation passed in 2001 blocks New Zealanders living across the Tasman from benefits including disability care, welfare and social housing.

"Australian and New Zealand families are being disadvantaged and penalised due to the current legislations," the group said.

"The system that is in place is not working and sadly many of the repercussions and consequences are being placed upon our children and our grandchildren. [Link]

## "Kauri" Dundee

82 year old Ron Standfield spends months each year camping in the bush near Thames exploring the areas milling heritage, looking for Kauri. Meet him online [link].

## **Restoration for Gallipoli 2015**

THE SOLDIER. It's just one line of many, the printed type faded. It says: "16/382 Herewini Whakarua, First Maori Battalion, A Company, from Waitotara, single, occupation farmer, next of kin Mrs Whakarua [mother]."

The line comes from the Nominal Rolls of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, volume, 1914-1919.

There was nothing to distinguish the young Maori soldier from any other, heading off to fight for King and Country. But seven years

after his death, Whakarua [whose name is also spelled Wakarua] was immortalised in marble, and his statue placed on top of the World War I memorial at Pakaitore/Moutoa Gardens.

The Pakaitore Historic Reserve Trust Board has applied for Lotteries funding to carry out full restoration of the obelisk and the statue, ahead of the 2015 centenary of the landing at Gallipoli. [Link}



## gettingtoknow... members of our club Geoff and Marian Ashworth

s reported in last month's issue of the Yarn, our Australia Day and Waitangi Day celebration was well attended by more than 40 members and friends. Geoff and Marian were among them, and signed up as new members of the Club.

Geoff was born in Perth, WA, and the family farmed at York, just east of Perth. He went to school there from primary to junior high. They then moved to Bunbury, south of Perth, to complete high school. He joined the Main Roads Department (Perth) as a cadet draftsman and was with them for 25 years, including three years at Port Hedland (a major iron ore port facility in the Pilbara region of north west WA)

Along the way he earned an Associate Diploma in Civil Engineering. In 1995, he joined BHP Engineering, which was bought out by Hatch in 2000. Geoff has been with them ever since. Hatch (Engineering Consultants) is a global corporation based in



Toronto, ON. The company was started in Montreal 60 years ago by Gerry Hatch. Over the years they have bought out Kaiser Engineering in Oz, Goba (Infrastructure Engineers) in South Africa, and H.G. Acres in Winnipeg. They do geotechnical and geothermal engineering for Manitoba Hydro, and Geoff is here for six to eight months working on the final design for the proposed Keeyask Generating Station on the Nelson River. He then expects to be transferred back to Perth.

In his halcyon days, Geoff played cricket and Aussie Rules football. Marian was an "A" grade softball player.

Geoff and Marian have a son, Glen, who is now 29 and lives in Perth. He is a motocross rider and former 3 time state champion.

Marian was born in Merredin, WA, where her parents also farmed. She took her primary school in Westonia and high school (college) in Perth, where she boarded for five years. She worked as a clerk in an insurance company in Perth, which is where she and Geoff met. They were married there in 1975.

Geoff found out about the DUCW from an associate at work here who mentioned our website.

With all their enthusiasm for the Club, we expect to see the Ashworths at more of our functions before they head back home.

Gordon Keatch



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## commonwealth

place by Murray Burt

## Oz navy sailors make heroin hits worth \$1 billion

HMAS Melbourne's skipper says the crew is proud of its role in the war against drugs.

Sailors in the Australian frigate HMAS Melbourne intercepted more than 500kg of heroin in two separate raids off the coast of Tanzania in the Indian Ocean last month.

Sources of the stash, authorities say, seem certainly to be from opium grown in Afghanistan where Oz troops have been fighting against terrorism and drugs for a decade or more.

The ship's Seahawk chopper spotted a suspect dhow, apparently fishing near Zanzibar. A five-person boarding party was dispatched in one of the warship's powerful rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIBs) and found it to be carrying 353 kilograms of dope aboard.

In another score with another vessel just hours later, a boarding party found a secret compartment containing 190 kilograms of heroin. It has an estimated street value of about \$380-million. The earlier shipment of 353 kilograms had an estimated value of more than \$620-million. The Oz boss of the Combined Task Force 150, Commodore Daryl Bates, said his force had now seized 1.3 tonnes of heroin with a street value of \$2.7 billion since December 2013.

#### NZ immunology scientists help pull off huge cancer breakthrough

Cancer immunotherapy clinical trials successes have cemented its potential in patients and have swayed even the most virulent skeptics.

It seems Wellington's Malaghan Institute research makes it one of the world's pioneers of the cancer treatment that has been named the biggest scientific breakthrough in 2013.

Top medical journal *Science* wrote that using the body's immune system to attack cancer cells instead of targeting the tumor itself is the medical coup of last year.

"Cancer immunotherapy passes the test as a result of this year clinical trials," Science wrote. "For physicians accustomed to losing every patient with advanced disease, the numbers bring a hope they couldn't have fathomed a few years ago."

The Malaghan Institute has been focusing on immunotherapy for 20 years, and director Graham Le Gros says it shows the most hope as a treatment for cancer.

As Fairfax News reports, scientists had

thought for decades that harnessing the "awesome power" of the immune system should be possible but it had been incredibly difficult to make it work, he said.

## Australian PM says he's bound for Ottawa this year

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott says he plans a visit to Canada this year. June is the likely month. He mentioned the fact when addressing a group of senior Canadian politicians and business people in Melbourne, saying that their two nations must lead the Group of 20 countries by implementing reforms that will boost global growth.

He's going to Ottawa, where he and PM Stephen Harper should have a jolly meeting. It will be his first visit to Canada since taking office. Abbott and Harper are very much kindred spirits in terms of political philosophy and practice.

## Kiribati climate refugee knocks at Canada's door

There's been speculation for decades on what happens to populations of those tiny Commonwealth island nations under threat of inundation as climate change raises the levels of the oceans. Should their people buy land in the larger states – Australia and Canada, for example – and create "new nations. Could they afford to immigrate? " Or should they join the other poor millions and be absorbed as refugees?

The refugee option was tested in Canada recently, and fared badly. A fine article in *Maclean's Magazine*, written by Brian Bethune, examined the case of Ioane Teilota from Kiribati who sought recognition as a climate refuge. He was denied his wish, although it's unlikely we have heard the last of the principle.

Kiribati ranks 46th in size of the 53 Commonwealth member nations. It's the home to about 100,000 citizens who occupy 33 tiny coral isles spread over two million square miles of ocean at the equator in the south Pacific. It became a Commonwealth member in July 1979. By 2079 it could be just a smudge of sand and coral shallows in the ocean, not even a lump on any horizon.

Anote Tong, Kiribati's president, has said often, and to international audiences, that his small, impoverished country – where the highest land is no more than two metres above sea level – urgently needed the world to take action on climate change or it will disappear. Now some of its citizenry are contemplating exodus. "We're considering everything... because we are running out of options," Tong says. [Link]

## Delhi facing air pollution crisis that rivals Beijing's

New Delhi, India's storied capital, is learning that its rapid growth success is coming at the same price that Beijing is paying in terms of live-ability. Air pollution is nearing a crisis with quality at 10 times acceptable levels.

With 1,200 new cars a day joining the traffic jams in the city, levels of respiratory infection is rising exponentially. The pollution of auto emissions aggravates the already natural dry dustiness that has always pervaded New Delhi. The crisis, and it is a crisis, differs from that in Beijing inasmuch as China recognizes the problem and is addressing it. New Delhi does not, and is not.

## Bangla owners of firetrap that killed 112 arrested, denied bail

The two owners of the horrific Dhaka clothing factory that burned killing 112 workers in November 2012 surrendered to the court last month, and have been arrested, arraigned and denied bail. They face homicide and arson charges.

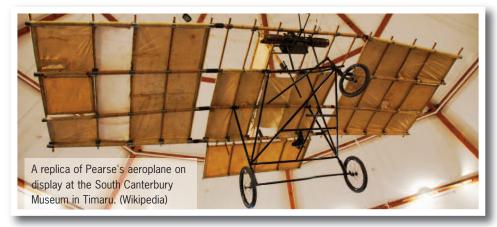
Management was appalling in its handling of the blaze, which they at first characterized to workers as a regular fire drill. Indeed some of the women who moved from their workspace when they smelled smoke were told not to try to leave the building, which had no fire exits and was difficult for fire fighters to reach because of the narrow alley access.

Gates accessing the building were locked from the outside, fire department investigators reported. The fact that the factory produced goods for well-know name-brand merchants in Europe, Britain, the United States and Canada, drove home the message of labor abuse in impoverished countries.

## Kiwi spy agencies mum on sources of funding.

The New Zealand Government's spy agencies have refused to tell MPs if they receive funding from other members of the Five Eyes intelligence network. The Government Communications Security Bureau and the Security Intelligence Service were replying to questions from Parliament's intelligence and security committee, Radio NZ reports. GCSB and SIS were asked if the governments of Australia, Canada, the UK or US funding any of its work, directly or indirectly. Both organizations withheld the information and also refused to say if any foreign government paid for any positions within the agencies.

See our ONLINE version's page 7 for more!



## didyaknow? surprising facts from back home

S peaking of flying, did you know that it was a Kiwi who is credited with inventing the first powered airplane? Richard William Pearse was born in

1877 at Waitohi Flat, Temuka, New Zealand. Their property was  $51\!\!\!/_2$  miles inland.

Pearse was a farmer and inventor who kept in touch with experimentation overseas. There is evidence he was working on ideas for powered flight from 1899 and had built his first two-cylinder petrol engine by 1902. He then constructed, using bamboo, tubular steel, wire and canvas, a low aspect ratio monoplane. It is claimed Pearse flew and landed a powered aircraft on 31 March 1903, nine months before the Wright brothers flew theirs. The evidence to the claim remains open to interpretation, and Pearse did not develop his aircraft to the same degree as the Wright brothers. *Te Ara* New Zealand has more of this story for you to read [Link] as does Wikipedia [Link].

## Play a leadership role in the electoral process

Elections Manitoba is looking for community leaders to manage the next provincial election.

*Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers* are responsible for the preparation and administration of all election activities in their electoral division.

#### **Requirements:**

- Non-partisan/no political affiliation
- Eligible voter (18 years or over, Canadian citizen, Manitoba resident)
- Project/event management experience
- People management experience
- Strong organizational skills
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This is a term position with some part-time work prior to the election and a full-time commitment required during the election.

#### **Compensation:**

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- Approximately \$15,000 for Returning
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- Approximately \$12,000 for Assistant Returning Officers

For more information please visit us online or call to request an application form:

Phone: 204.945.7940 Toll-free: 1.866.628.6837 ext. 7940 Email: RORecruit@elections.mb.ca Website: electionsmanitoba.ca

## Closing date: April 7, 2014

Employment Equity is a factor in selection. Applicants are requested to indicate if they are from any of the following groups: Aboriginal people, visible minorities and persons with a disability.

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.







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This newsletter can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services. Layout by design@hydesmith.com

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#### THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

Station Main, PO Box 1655, Winnipeg Manitoba Canada R3C 2Z6 1-204-832-4405 info@downunderclub.mb.ca

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epages for news that just would not fit in the print issue

## commonwealth place by Murray Burt



#### Man shortage in Oz a worry to women of marriageable age

Hey guys. Looking for the love of a good woman? You should consider the situation in Australia - or parts of it anyway. There's a male drought there, according to Peter Michael, writing in Brisbane at The Courier-Mail.

The nation is in the grip of a shortage of eligible men as the odds stack up against the girls in the dating stakes. One source of this alarming message is an online dating agency and supported, they say, by national census analysis.

The figures show just how hard it can be, statistically, for a woman to find a partner.

The man drought in the typical dating age bracket of 18-35, is topped by cities like Cairns, Rockhampton and Toowoomba, in the north, where women outnumber men by the hundreds. Ladies unlucky in love might think about a road trip to a bachelor hot spot like the male-dominated military garrison city of Townsville.

Melanie Dudgeon speaking for RSVP, Australia's biggest online dating agency, said lovelorn singles look to meet new people outside their existing social network and immediate location.

In Brisbane the problem is most evident in university suburbs like St Lucia, as more women take up tertiary education than men, with 3% more ladies, said social researcher Mark McCrindle.

Fellow demographer Bernard Salt, said that based on year-old census data it was specially competitive for single women of marrying age. There are 1.3 million single women aged 25-34 living in Australia. In the same age bracket, however, there are only 86,000 single, heterosexual, well-off or "eligible" men earning above \$60,000 a year, he said.

#### China increases stake in undeveloped Antarctica with The Lantern

Chinese scientists opened their fourth research station in Antarctica last month, and a fifth is in the works. All are substantial investments in the world's last unexploited continent, but there will be international political traps ahead.

Speculation is that it just makes China another player in the exploitation game that will open up when the Antarctic Treaty against mineral extraction expires in 2048, and the signatories can begin tapping the untold resources of the southern continent. The payoff is expected to be huge.

The actual structure is unusual. Generally known as Taishan or The Lantern, it is a 1,000 square metre red bud (about 11,000 square feet) on legs, high above the surface of the ice. It will be used to study geology, glaciers, and climate change and is equipped with aircraft designed for flying in snow and ice. It is located within sight of stations operated by Italy, South Korean and the United States.

Currently there are 30 countries in line, with research stations in areas which they will likely use as the basis for staking claims as their territory.

Beijing spending on operations in Antarctic has jumped from \$20 million a year to \$55 million over the last 20 years. And the country has conducted 30 voyages to the continent and is building a second icebreaker for operations down there. Chinese cartographers have already named 359 sites on the continent.

When its fifth station is completed China will have caught up with countries like Italy, Germany, and Japan, and will have only one fewer research station than the US or the UK.

But China, like most, is not yet an official claimant. The official seven nations are the United Kingdom (set in 1908), New Zealand (1923), France (1924), Norway (1929 and 1939), Australia (1933), Chile (1940), Argentina (1942). Claimants not on the treaty list include the United States, Russia, China and others among the 42 signatory nations of the Antarctic Treaty.