

The Southern Yarn

August 2011



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

August

downundercalendar
2011

details on page 3

SEPTEMBER

*Saturday September 16
Members' Night*

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Come along for a recap of all our summer adventures.

OCTOBER

Formal Dinner

NOVEMBER

Annual General Meeting

DECEMBER

Christmas Party



They all need your help! From left:

Quinn, Chihuahua, aged 2 years and 2 months;

Spot, American Eskimo, aged 1 years and 0 months;

Boo, Domestic Short Hair, aged 4 months;

Renee, Tabby, aged 1 years and 5 months.

RSVP

If you are attending any of our events, we like to know ahead of time to give us a chance to be better prepared. In lieu of a social coordinator, feel free to contact Jenny at 228-9959 or send an email to social@downunderclub.mb.ca about any of our upcoming events.

Advertise in The Southern Yarn.

Contact Jenny for all the rates. Send your submission by email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca or call 228-9959, or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.

Join us on FACEBOOK



We now have 47 fans 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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The tail end

A few weeks back, Elaine Clairmont let us know about an upcoming event – D'Arcy A.R.C.'s Dog's Breakfast. It was great! The breakfast was delicious, and we were treated to pancakes, sausages and bacon, Starbucks coffee, and great conversation and chit chat.

There were lots of dogs and their owners, as well as information about various pet services, and really fantastic prizes. Elaine is normally the lucky one, so imagine my surprise when I won a basket of dog food and accessories! It was huge, and since we don't have a dog – yet – I offered to donate it back to the host organisation.

After a brief discussion with them, we opted to donate the basket to another major fundraiser event – ARF (Animal Rescue Fundraisers of Manitoba). As we discovered, D'Arcy's has more critical needs.

And then I thought, we have a lot of dog lovers in our Club, as well as members who like to help out if they can. Maybe if I share the list of those needs, some of you might want to help out.

So, I invite you to bring along one or more of the items on this list to our next event – Members' Night – on September 16 (details on pages 1 and 3). If you can't make the event, please take them directly to D'Arcy's (730B Century Street, phone 888-2266 or visit

www.darcysarc.ca/contact/general for their hours and other details).

You can also help the people in Africa by supporting an organisation working to alleviate one of the largest humanitarian crises in decades. For more information, see page 2 in my usual editorial space.

WISH LIST FOR D'ARCY'S A.R.C.

For the Animals

CRITICAL: cat litter — clumping

ALSO NEEDED: canned cat food (Friskies or Fancy Feast); stainless steel cat and dog bowls; plastic or rubber dog and cat toys; dog and cat treats; litter pans — medium or large sizes

For the Shelter

CRITICAL: hand sanitiser gel for our dispensers; laundry soap — high efficiency; garbage bags — any size; disposable gloves — large and medium; dishwasher soap; bleach; paper towels

ALSO NEEDED: liquid hand soap; toilet paper and Kleenex; window cleaner; unscented dryer sheets; Canadian Tire money (to help purchase supplies); newspapers - no flyers please.

Office Supplies

CRITICAL: Oxford Blue Pocket Portfolios — #57572C; new Canadian stamps

ALSO NEEDED: pens, pencils, highlighters; standard staples; manila file folders; 8 1/2 x 11" photocopy/printer paper

Thank you for whatever you can do to help!

editorially yours

Jenny Gates



Rather than a message from me this month, I am using this space to appeal for help for those suffering in East Africa. Thanks to the *Winnipeg Free Press* for providing this list of organisations working in the affected areas.

Helping feed the hungry

An estimated 11.3 million people need aid across drought-hit regions in East Africa. Ottawa will match every dollar Canadians give to a registered charity working in the area until September 16, after which the government will decide how to allocate the funds. Organisations accepting donations include:

Canadian Red Cross: The Canadian arm of the international group has put \$1 million toward relief. Call 1-800-418-1111 or visit redcross.ca to donate, and earmark the contribution for the Horn of Africa drought.

Mennonite Central Committee: With projects in Kenya and Ethiopia, the MCC is assisting drought-stricken regions with food-for-work projects and targeted funding. Call 1-888-622-6337 or visit mcc.org.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief: CLWR is distributing food and supporting refugee camps in the region as well as providing assistance to people still in Somalia. Donate online at www.clwr.org/donate or by calling 1-800-661-2597 or locally at 694-5602.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank: Working with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the bank has been responding to the food needs of the region since May. Call 1-800-665-0377 or visit foodgrains-bank.ca.

The Humanitarian Coalition: A coalition of five Canadian aid groups – CARE Canada, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam Quebec, Plan Canada, and Save the Children Canada – hopes to reach millions with food and water. Donate at humanitariancoalition.ca or 1-800-464-9154.

UNICEF Canada: A \$50 donation can get 20 litres of milk to starving kids in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. Donate at unicef.ca or by calling 1-800-567-4483.

S.O.S. Children's Villages: The agency plans to open vaccination centres, mobile clinics and emergency-relief programs. Donate at soschildrensvillages.ca

It's hot, is it not? This summer is turning out to be one of the best on record after all that rain in April and May. It's been great weather to enjoy the out of doors in and around Winnipeg.

The board did not meet last month as there was really nothing to talk about or organise, and some of our executive was away. Speaking of which, Peter and Margaret Munn are back from their trip to Australia. From what I heard from Peter they had a great time and did a lot of travelling. We will be waiting in anticipation for the travel night with photos and commentary.

Kerry and I went out to Saskatchewan last weekend to fulfill a task I set myself when my mother passed away in September last year. I brought back some of her ashes to spread in Imperial where she was born on November 25, 1920. Imperial is a town of



president's ramblings

Terry Roberts

about 900, a true farming town in the middle of the Saskatchewan prairie. I spread her ashes in the local cemetery were I am sure she will get to know the locals very quickly; she was a real mixer.

By the way, Happy Birthday to our club treasurer, Peter Debenham. I won't say his age, but it's somewhere between 39 and holding and time to go walkabout. Don't get lost on that walkabout, eh! Have a good one.

That's it from North Kildonan, where the sun is shining and summer is a winner.



Unfamiliar territory
[courtesy of Cathy Briggs]

Australian Wallabies rugby practice was delayed nearly two hours today after a player reported finding an unknown white powdery substance on the practice field. Coach Robbie Deans immediately suspended practice while police were called to investigate. After a complete analysis, experts determined that the white substance unknown to players was the GOAL LINE. Practice resumed after special agents decided the team was unlikely to encounter the substance again! GO ALL BLACKS!

Sweet summer berries in your pie!

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What's up next ...

**Saturday September 16
Member's Night**

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Come along for a recap of all our summer adventures. And if you can, bring along something from the list of items on page 1.

What happened ...

This report from Past President Lynley Davidson on her family's adventure to Assiniboine Park back on Saturday May 21. **Photos:** Big chairs and big crowds enjoy the new Nature Playground at Assiniboine Park. Kool Kid Ryan Davidson (top left), and taking a break with the always suave Aidan Fitt (top right).



Assiniboine Park Family Fun Day at the New Nature Playground

From your first steps down the tree-lined path toward the Children's Garden and New Nature Playground, you will be transported into a world of wonder that encourages children of all ages to run, jump, climb, explore, and play!

Exercise your imagination while you explore the sand and water play area, a sky-high crow's nest, willow tree tunnels, basket swings, mazes, net bridges, and topiaries. These unique features are inspired by and incorporated into the area's natural surroundings, which include two acres of trees, gently rolling hills, playful streams, and mountains to climb.

Another highlight is the Children's Garden inspired by the classic childhood board game of Snakes and Ladders.

Natural materials have been used wherever possible, from a larger-than-life bird's nest constructed of reclaimed, naturally-felled oak to a troupe of topiary frog musicians and a living checker-board guarded by a fearsome or friendly-looking wooden snake (depending on how you feel about snakes).

In winter, snow and ice will transform the Children's Garden and Nature Playground into a frosty wonderland with snow forts, toboggan runs, ice sculptures and outdoor fire pits.

The New Nature Playground is located just west of the Assiniboine Park Pavilion. Parking is available in lots and along roadways throughout the Park. As always, admission to Assiniboine Park and the New Nature Playground is FREE!

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Happy Hour Specials



Every day from 4:30 to 7:00 during the summer is Happy Hour in the Lounge. \$1.25 per oyster – champagne available by the glass – 1/2 price wings – and, of course, beer and shot specials. And don't forget about our fantastic weekend brunch and delicious dinner menu!

Visit our website www.billabongbarandbistro.com for hours, menus, events, and our community involvement.

D-121 Osborne, call 452-1019 for reservations.

Wednesday nights
15% off our Lounge menu between 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm upon presentation of your DUCW card



Skeletal remains of Aboriginal ancestors buried in the ancestral home. Photo: Glenn Campbell.

Stolen spirits at rest

[July 20, 2011] Aboriginal elders in Arnhem Land say the “spirits” of dozens of their ancestors whose skeletal remains were stolen from burial grounds more than 60 years ago can now rest after being reburied in a traditional ceremony. “These people are now naked, healthy and free and can go back into the ground where they belong, back into their land and we can say goodbye.” Mr Nayinggul said it was “no bloody good for anyone” that the bones were stolen by scientific researchers in 1948. “We should live together, black and white with no mucking around, no stealing.” For more extraordinary photos, see bottomfivesites on page 8.



Cadel Evans. Photo: AFP.

Joy and agony of a champion

[July 25, 2011] As Cadel Evans stood on the Tour de France dais this morning as the first Australian winner of the revered event, his emotions were divided: by joy for making a dream come true, relief for having ridden a near-perfect race, and sorrow for a lost dear friend. “A few people always believed in me, I believed in me ... we did it.” Evans’ journey was not without heartache. His Tour record

includes coming eighth on debut in 2005, followed by fourth in 2006 and then second in 2007 and 2008. At long last, he has made the breakthrough he deserves.



Grey nomad Christmas card. Photo: zazzle.ca.

There's work still in the olds!

[Aug 1, 2011, www.ausfoodnews.com.au] The Australian agricultural industry is looking to “grey nomads” as the answer to rural Australia’s labour shortage. Grey nomads are retirees in their 60s or older who travel around Australia, performing seasonal work on farms to sustain their travels. An indispensable workforce in some agricultural industries such as seafood processing and horticultural harvesting, an Australian Government initiative matches them and other seasonal workers with available jobs in horticultural harvest.



Design firm Hassell's concept for a slick double-decker high-speed train. Photo: hassell-studio.com.

Sydney to Melbourne in 3 hours

[Aug 4, 2011] A federal government-commissioned study says tickets on a high-speed train to Melbourne or Brisbane could cost between \$75 and \$197 for a 3-hour journey, and travel between Newcastle and Sydney could take just 40 minutes for a mere \$16.50. The first stage of the study into building the east coast high-speed rail network will cost \$20 million, and the entire project as much as \$100 billion. “Imagine boarding a train in the centre of Sydney – no racing to the airport, no delays, no lost luggage, no taking your shoes off – and arriving three hours later in the heart of either Brisbane or Melbourne.”



Auction at Kurrumbede, once home to poet Dorothea Mackellar. Photo: Paul Mathews.

Clean sweep of the plain

[Aug 8, 2011] Farm and household items with only the most tenuous connection to the poet Dorothea Mackellar sold out at the one-time family property, Kurrumbede, near Gunnedah, at the weekend. Mackellar is believed to have stayed at the property while writing a part of *My Country*, with Gunnedah’s sweeping plains said to have provided her inspiration. Items sold ranged from a dray for \$2,600 and a wool table for \$3,800, to a teapot for \$60 and a cast iron dish for \$140. “I think they were buying stuff just because it had a possible association with her.”

'White Mouse' Nancy Wake dies

[Aug 8, 2011] Political, military leaders across the western world paid tribute to war heroine, Nancy Wake. Born in New Zealand, she moved to Australia at age 1, living most of her life there until the war. When France was occupied by the Nazis in 1940, the fearless WWII French resistance fighter and leader and her French husband Henri Fiocca became active in the resistance movement. Sadly, Fiocca was tortured and killed in 1943, but Wake saved thousands of Allied lives by setting up escape routes and sabotaging German installations. The Germans called her the White Mouse because of her ability to evade capture. Trained as a spy by the British, she led 7,000 resistance fighters in D-Day preparations and was on top of the Gestapo’s most wanted list. Wake received many honours and awards, including Companion of the Order of Australia, Commonwealth of Nations 1939-1945 Star, France’s Legion d’Honneur and Medaille de la Resistance, US Presidential Medal of Freedom, and Royal New Zealand Returned and Services’ Association Badge.

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[July 12, 2011] Spotted in Reefton. Great Kiwi humour!



It's magnificent!

www.thismagnificentlife.com

Thanks to Ian MacTavish for letting us know about a couple of NZ articles in the latest issue of great online luxury magazine. Launched in NY in June 2009, the mag goes out fortnightly to high net worth people in more than 100 countries. The two articles in recent issues include "Yikes! Move over ordinary bikes" and "NZ Cabernet takes on the French at their own game".



found that at least 185 of New Zealand's 256 primary and intermediate schools in the poorest 10th of the nation give their children breakfast or other food during the day, on top of the Government's fruit in schools scheme. Various programmes supply muesli bars, bagels, fruit pots and other food to more than 40,000 children. "It's definitely got worse this year. The poverty is really obvious." Thousands of children go to school without breakfast either because they don't want to eat breakfast, it's not part of the culture, or their families can't afford to feed their children every morning. "We have people surviving on \$80 a week and having to make choices whether they treat their child's nits or buy food."



The Royal Family took the gold medal in the inaugural MegaCrew category. Photo: Kendal Collins.

NZ World Hip-Hop dance champs

[Aug 2, 2011] New Zealand has won two silver and three gold medals at the World Hip-Hop Dance Championship in Las Vegas. The haul confirms New Zealand as a major force in hip-hop dance, and effectively makes Penrose's Palace Dance Studios the most successful hip-hop dance studio in the world. "It's an amazing journey for New Zealand as a country. Everyone I spoke to was just in awe that a country our size could dominate.



Schools and charities blame soaring prices for the leap in number of unfed kids. Photo: Jason Dorday.

Our hungry kids

[July 25, 2011] School principals say the number of pupils turning up for breakfast is increasing daily. A Herald investigation has

When you have the anthem being sung three times out of four, and the flag raises, never a prouder moment brother, never."

How much are you looking forward to the rugby World Cup?

[HZ Herald Poll]

- 1. Super excited, can't wait
2. Not excited yet, but I'll get there when it starts
3. I'll watch a few games, it should be good
4. Not too bothered either way
5. I don't really like rugby, not looking forward to it at all



A Lotto ticket that went through the wash collects big. Photo: Christine Cornege.

Winning ticket cleaned up

[Aug 5, 2011] A four-week-old Lotto ticket survived a trip through the washing machine to net \$250,000 for its Christchurch owner. The winner, who wants to stay anonymous, found the ticket last weekend after he washed an old pair of jeans. "I figured it wouldn't be worth anything but I was heading to Countdown to buy my tea and thought I'd check it anyway." The winner has been just 'getting by' in the earthquake devastated city since February. "I couldn't even remember where or when I had bought the ticket and I'm so glad it survived the washing machine."

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It can cost as much as \$17,500 a year* for your child to live away at a Canadian university—and costs are rising! Get time on your side by starting to save now.

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Gabrielle and Ben Starkey

Gabrielle Dubé was born in St Boniface, MB, where she attended French schools and Louis Riel Collegiate. She then started on a commerce degree at University of Manitoba.

Halfway through, Gabrielle decided to travel to Europe, where she met Ben in Barcelona in February 2001. They clicked! There was a mutual interest in Winnipeg because, unbeknownst to her, Ben was also at the U of M. More on that later.

After spending three days together in Europe, Ben asked Gabrielle to visit him in Australia. One short month later and she was in Melbourne! She stayed four months, house-sitting in Leongatha North in the Gippsland area of Victoria for Ben's parents. They had gone to Europe for a holiday.

Gabrielle came back to the U of M in Winnipeg to finish off her degree, and Ben joined her six months later. In July 2002, she and Ben were married. Her father, a justice of the peace, performed the ceremony in a St Boniface park.

They stayed here another year before heading back to Melbourne for two years. After that time, they went on a three-month Asian tour to Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, then spent nine months in Kunming, China, teaching English. It was then back to Oz for three months, followed by three years in Montreal. Being bilingual, Gabrielle had no trouble finding work in advertising, and Ben taught English.

On December 30, 2008, their son



Thomas was born, and they went back to Oz to show him off to his grandparents. In May 2009, they returned to Winnipeg, buying a house in Old St Vital.

Gabrielle now works in an ad agency and enjoys yoga and camping.

Ben was born in the Melbourne suburb of Springvale, but the family moved to Leongatha, where he grew up and took his schooling. He then achieved a Bachelors of Education and Science at Deakin University in Melbourne, which has an affiliation with the U of M, where he finished his last semester in 2000. Ben then travelled to Europe where he met Gabrielle. Back in Oz, he taught physical education and health.

A year later, he returned to Winnipeg

where he worked as a server for Earl's and at a local kid's help line for a year. Then it was back to Melbourne where he taught high school for two years. We've already touched on his stint in Montreal, and he now teaches ESL at the U of M.

Gabrielle's parents co-own a golf course at La Broquerie, so Ben has taken up that challenge! He also enjoys running and cross-country skiing.

Gabrielle and Ben will welcome their second child in February 2012.

During a dinner at The Billabong Restaurant, they found out about the DUCW and joined right away. Look for them at some of our functions and say 'G'day!'.

Gordon Keatch

Wallabies succumb to Eden Park curse

[Aug 6, 2011] Strong defence and ruthlessness in taking their chances took the All Blacks to a convincing 30-14 win over Australia in tonight's Tri-Nations test match at Eden Park. The All Blacks outscored the visitors three tries to two and ensured the Bledisloe Cup will stay in New Zealand for a ninth successive season. It was a solid team performance from the All Blacks, who will gain a lot of confidence from the way their defence kept the much-vaunted Australian backline in check.

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Vice-Regal cruise goes awry in Antarctic seas

You invite your governor general and sundry VIPs for a “southern cruise” on your nation’s newest warship. The junket in the 85-metre offshore patrol vessel HMNZS *Otago* included as guests Governor General Sir Anand Satyanand and cabinet minister Kate Wilkinson. They were bound for the Auckland and Campbell islands, sub-Antarctic specks on the map, 700 km south of New Zealand.

But there was unplanned bonus excitement on the way there. The *Otago* ran into exceptionally heavy seas in the southern ocean. Then one of the ship’s two engines broke down due to an electrical fault.

Such is the hosts’ luck with weather and matters mechanical. Failure of the one engine meant the other had to be operated manually. It meant a slow plod to anchorage in Perseverance Harbour at Campbell Island.

There the “tourist party” was transferred to the companion ship, HMNZS *Wellington*, to be shipped 270 km northwest to Auckland Island and then to Dunedin.

The *Otago* was carrying scientists for a three-month expedition to study the ecology, archaeology and human impact on the islands. Another aim of the mission, however, was to test the capabilities of both ships in the challenging conditions of the Southern Ocean, the navy said. Well, they got the challenge.

The ships were elements of the \$500-million Project Protector, which saw seven new ships added to the fleet. Besides the *Otago* and *Wellington*, there was the multi-role ship, HMNZS *Canterbury*, and four inshore patrol vessels.

Advice to India: be generous to Pakistan

Sir Mark Tully, famous voice of the BBC, called on India’s re-elected government to be generous in talking to Pakistan. “The burden of generosity lies on India’s shoulders. Something has to be given.”

He made the comment to a forum of the Commonwealth Journalists Association in London recently.

CJA writer David Spark reported him as saying he hoped Prime Minister Manmohan Singh would say: “We should have the guts to

see there is this opportunity and we must take it.”

Sir Mark was encouraged by news that the Indian army is withdrawing from towns and cities in Kashmir. The Congress government, however, would not want the opposition BJP party, saying: “You are being weak on terrorism.”

Sir Mark pointed to the opportunities presented to China by India’s poor relations with its neighbours. By example, India refused arms to Sri Lanka, so China supplied them and got a contract to build roads.

Asked to comment on India’s poor ranking for health and children’s wellbeing, Sir Mark said that government’s ability to deliver services was chronically inadequate. Too many politicians did not want change because they benefited from complexity and inefficiency.

CMAG continues to wrestle with power group in suspended Fiji

The military government of Fiji is still being pressed by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) to restore civilian constitutional democracy. The junta’s continued refusal, which splits the Pacific nation along ethnic lines (Aboriginal and Asian), led to its suspension from the Commonwealth.

CMAG reaffirmed the Commonwealth’s solidarity with the people of Fiji. Its quarrel with government is that concrete steps toward restoring democracy have been suspended.

Respect for human rights and upholding the rule of law, in line with Commonwealth values and principles, are in constant breach under the junta administration’s continued imposition of the Public Emergency Regulation (PER). Imposition of arbitrary arrest, torture and other human right abuses still hold society hostage.

Happy Feet, the penguin, healthy enough for swim home

Remember Happy Feet, the emperor penguin taken from Peka Peka beach on the Kapiti Coast of New Zealand, after a swim from Antarctica? It was out of its element and failing from consuming sand, rather than snow, in an effort to keep cool.

It was taken in for cool care by Wellington Zoo with a 50-50 chance of recovery. The ministrations worked. Happy Feet, subject of world media attention at the time, is now deemed fit to travel. He’ll be turned loose in southern NZ, probably in September, for a return journey swim to his icy habitat.

Kiwi fishermen fight foreign intrusion at sea

Some Kiwi deep-sea fishermen are angry that foreign fishing boats, notably Koreans licensed by NZ, are poaching on their turf.

They are addressing it by playing a dangerous game of chicken. That is, they run their vessels towing tackle over their competitors’ gear to rip away their rivals’ catch.

As an example, according to Tom Donohue in the *Dominion Post*, two boats’ trawling gear became entangled in such an incident about 30 km north of the Auckland Islands in March, as part of what one company says was a campaign to drive the Korean vessel out of the New Zealand coastal charter-fishing business.

Southern Storm Fishing, based in Christchurch, reported the incident to Maritime NZ, saying a boat sailing out of Nelson from Talley’s Fisheries, the *Amaltal Explorer*, approached its boat, the *Oyang 77*, and “shot” its net from the starboard side across its towed gear. The nets from the two boats collided under water and the *Amaltal Explorer* lost an otter board (a fitting on the outside of its net).

Animosity between the two companies stems from Southern Storm Fishing chartering boats from a Korean firm.

Talley’s Fisheries, of Nelson, strongly opposes the use of foreign-owned charter-fishing boats in the New Zealand territorial waters.

The Southern Storm spokesman said it was part of a “dangerous extension” to the campaign against the company.

The investigation into the incident by Maritime NZ did not apportion blame to either party. Southern Storm Fishing is currently embroiled in an industrial dispute at Lyttelton involving 32 of its Indonesian crew formerly employed on another boat, the *Oyang 75*.

Foreign charter boats catch nearly half of New Zealand’s commercial fishing tonnage. In the 2008-09 fishing year, 30 foreign enterprises landed 198,000 tonnes, while 1,142 domestic boats, including the inshore fleet, caught 221,000 tonnes.

Murray Burt is a retired newspaper editor and Commonwealth watcher with close links to journalist, human rights, and royal society NGOs.

remember

members of our club

Wish it was me!

Congratulations to Lucia Barron and Judy Powell on their recent retirements.

Lucia Barron led the way on July 18, retiring as General Manager of Comfort Inn Winnipeg South after 25 years in the hospitality industry. Since her last day, Lucia has enjoyed the fabulous summer, with lots of time catching up with people, attending Folklorama, and unwinding at the beach and pool side. Future plans include tripping down under every winter and more traveling, wherever and whenever possible. As she said, "Life is tough, but someone's gotta do it." Thanks, Lucia!

Then on Friday August 5, **Judy Powell** said goodbye to the University of Manitoba, although she is technically on two weeks holiday and "officially" retiring on August 19. But for all intents and purposes, she has wrapped up 12 years there, including the last 11½ with the Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics. Plans for the near future include a 4-day quilting exposition and conference in Fargo in mid-September with some friends, and preparing to welcome her sister, Helen, back to Winnipeg (November 1 to 27).

Congratulations to you both on retirements well earned!

bottomfivesites

some favourite links to follow

www.museumofhoaxes.com — examining dubious claims and mischief of all kinds

www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4shrCg1b7E — the True Kiwi Way ... a new anthem for New Zealand?

www.dogstardaily.com/training/raising-puppy — got a new puppy?

www.themuralsowinnipeg.com — our outdoor art gallery!

bit.ly/nKR35B — for more photos of the return of the aboriginal bones (see article on page 4)

funnybusiness

down under humour - this time courtesy

DUCW member Ron Rochester

Maori Fire Department

One dark night in the township of Whakatane, New Zealand, a fire started inside the local chemical plant and, in the blink of an eye, it exploded into massive flames. The alarm went out to all the fire departments for miles around.

When the volunteer fire fighters appeared on the scene, the chemical company president rushed to the fireman in charge and said, "All our secret formulas are in the vault in the centre of the plant. They must be saved. I will give \$50,000 to the fire department that brings them out intact."

But the roaring flames held the fire-fighters off. Soon more fire departments had to be called in as the situation became desperate. As the firemen arrived, the president shouted out that the offer was now \$100,000 to the fire station who could bring out the company's secret files. But still the fire companies could not get through.

From the distance, a lone siren was heard as another fire truck came into sight. It was the nearby Taneatua Maori rural township volunteer fire company, composed mainly of Maoris over the age of 65.

To everyone's amazement, that little run-down fire engine roared right past all the newer sleek engines that were parked outside the plant. Without even slowing down it drove straight into the middle of the inferno. Outside, the other firemen watched as the Maori old timers jumped off, right in the middle of the fire, and fought it back on all sides. It was a performance and effort never seen before. Within a short time, the old timers had extinguished the fire and saved the secret formulas.

The grateful chemical company president announced that for such a superhuman feat he was upping the reward to \$200,000, and walked over to personally thank each of the brave fire fighters.

The local TV station caught the 'thank you' on film and asked their chief, "What are you going to do with all that money?"

"Well," said Hohepa, the 70-year-old fire chief, "the first thing we gonna do is fix the brakes on that damn fire truck."



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