

# Canada quite a change for Aussie family: speaker

(The following report has been provided by Angela Valli of the Beamsville W.I.)

Genevieve Edwards of Australia was guest speaker at the March 21 meeting of the Beamsville Women's Institute.

She, her husband Andy and two sons, David and Kane, have been in Beamsville since January, when Mr. Edwards arrived on a one-year exchange program to teach math at BDSS.

Genevieve bid the members 'G-day' and then explained just where Mildura is.

Mildura, with a population of 1,850, is surrounded by desert and is an eight-hour drive from Melbourne. The temperature in summers can range from 32 degrees Centigrade and higher, in a very dry heat.

In winter the temperature can drop to 16 degrees Centigrade, and this is accompanied by about 12 inches of rain.

It can take two days to cross Australia's barren desert by car.

Mildura is an irrigation colony, founded by two Canadian brothers, W.B. Chaffey and George Chaffey, who originated from Brockville. They set up an irrigation colony in California in the 1880s, and their success there led Aldred Deakin, a young politician, to take them to Mildura in 1886, with a view to setting up another desert irrigation colony.

This proved to be very successful, and resulted in an abundance of flora in an area surrounded by desert. The area produces citrus fruits, has its own vineyards and makes its own wine, and is responsible for some 80 percent of Australia's dried fruit.

Genevieve and Andy have a lemon, an orange and a grapefruit tree in their backyard. A 60-year-old Jacaranda tree graces their front entrance.

The Edwards found shopping in Canada to be quite an experience. An attempt at making Pavlova — a dessert of egg-whites, castor sugar and fruit — led to an exhaustive hunt for the sugar, only to find that castor sugar and fruit sugar are one and the same.

Requests for chips and sauce met with blank stares, until they learned that in Canada the same is known as fries and ketchup. Looking for fresh lamb at the butcher's shop has been another experience.



Genevieve Edwards, guest speaker last month at the Beamsville Women's Institute meeting, is joined during the meeting by (from left) Nell Michener, Dorothy Burtch, Stella Goertzen and Muriel Sherk.

Genevieve had on hand some crackers with vegemite spread (an Australian Kraft product), and also some samples of a \$2 coin and other coins and bills.

These past few months have been packed with adventure and excitement, not to mention some tense and frightening moments. During the March break, Genevieve and her family drove to Minnesota and ex-

perienced their first blizzard, which had to be faced with some new driving skills.

Members of the BWI saw beautiful pictures of birds and animals such as possums, koala (which is not a bear), kookaburra, and, of course, kangaroo, which can travel at 40 kilometres an hour when at a mere lope.

Convener for International

Affairs Anglea Valli had asked members to dress in national costume. Genevieve sported the Akubra: the Australian hat made of rabbit pelts. Ten pelts are required to make one hat, which costs between \$60 and \$80 and comes in several styles and colors.

The Australian colors are gold and green, representing their beaches and trees. Genevieve was dressed in these colors, complete with a leather necklace on which were hung green leaves representing the Eucalyptus trees, and round beads, representing the nuts of the gum tree.

Feeding deer and squirrels has also been a first-time experience and, it seems, only four people in Beamsville are crazy about squirrels. One of their new neighbors has offered to ship all the squirrels off to Australia.

Should anyone happen to see a lady on a walking tour of Beamsville, with the biggest, brightest smile on her face (especially when it's snowing), they have probably met our Australian guest — no doubt feed-

ing every squirrel in sight.

Many thanks were extended to BWI guests Stella Goertzen, Jean Bouk, Roberta Jones, Wilma McKnight, Marjorie MacGregor and Kay Muggish for joining the group.

The guest speaker was presented with a trivet on which is a sketch of the Erland Lee home, on Ridge Road in Stoney Creek, where the first-ever meeting of the Women's Institute was organized on February 19, 1897 by co-founders Adelaide H. Hoodless and Erland Lee.

At the business meeting, Barbara Stones informed members that she had been voted chairperson of the week and that she had been presented with a spring basket arrangement by the C.C.A.

Barbara ended the meeting by asking members to write more thank-you letters to the sponsors of the C.C.A. (Community Club Awards).

The next meeting will be the annual meeting, to be held on April 18 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Alban's Parish Hall. The \$5 membership fee is now due.

April 19, 1989

## Award recognizes Lincoln achiever

Lincoln resident Jack Clinton has been honored with a special achievement award from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for his 28 years of involvement with the Shooting Federation of Canada.

Mr. Clinton has been the chief range officer for the federation for the past 28 years and, at 64, he's still going strong.

He has also coached many Olympic and Commonwealth Games competitors and just recently attended the World Cup Competition in Mexico City with a team of 16.

"It's the nicest feeling when an athlete is on the podium and they're playing your national anthem," he said. "I'm glad to have been part of the success of the athletes."

The father of seven and grandfather of 13 said he began shooting in 1959 and joined the federation in 1960.

He describes himself as a very competitive person.

"I love taking an Olympic class athlete who's considered the best, and make him better," he said.

Amateur athletes and volunteers from across the province were honored for their outstanding achievements in sports at a banquet held in



Jack Clinton

Toronto earlier this month.

Mr. Clinton has been a Jordan Lions Club member for the past 25 years and a volunteer firefighter for 20 years. In his spare time, he enjoys deer hunting in Northern Ontario.