

Australian teacher in exchange

by Jennifer Barr

It's the middle of January and -22C. Most Canadians are thinking about the sun, warmth, and visiting Australia.

However, one Australian has turned the tables by coming to Canada in the middle of winter. Brian Jones of Sydney, Australia, arrived in Canada in the New Year to teach grade 3 at Ottawa Crescent Public School in Guelph on an exchange program.

He has exchanged with Betty Oakes of Rockwood who is now teaching his grade 5 class in Sydney.

Brian is residing with Betty's mother, Mrs. William Oakes, at the family's Fifth Line farm property north of Rockwood.

Betty, who left Boxing Day, has taught for 10 years and was recently librarian at Aberfoyle School.

Both Brian and Betty were informed of their exchange in late October so according to Mrs. Oakes it was a "real ratrace" preparing for a year in another country in such a short time.

How does the frozen north appeal to our visitor from down under?

"I thought I was prepared for the cold but I didn't realize cold could hurt!" Brian gasps.

Australian lifestyles are very similar to Canadian, Brian comments. Cost of living is high. Real estate, especially in Sydney, costs more than in Toronto. New cars are more expensive while used cars are cheaper.

Brian says his own modest two bedroom home in downtown Sydney cost the equivalent of \$100,000 (Canadian) and a small three room suburban house he recently purchased cost around \$60,000 (Canadian). A new family compact car fetches \$13,000 (Canadian) in Australia. With salaries slightly under ours it's easy to realize why Australians are having a hard time of it.

Sydney residents generally see a lot of canned American television shows and purchase the same consumer goods so, Brian says, the change to the Canadian way of life is not difficult. The weather is the biggest difference, although Sydney receives its share of cooler temperatures. Brian remarks a Canadian would find Sydney cold in winter because of the lack of central heating to moderate daytime temperatures of 10 to 15 C and night temperatures at the frost level.

Three quarters of Australia's population lives in the south western strip according to Brian. When the traveler ventures away from the populated coast he sees Australia at its wildest.

Kangaroos bound in front of cars, frequently becoming traffic victims. Koalas visit rural gardens and bird life has to be experienced to be enjoyed fully.

In order to appreciate the abundance of Australian wildlife it is necessary to do two things, Brian says, "One, close your mouth and two, get out of your car—that knocks out about 95 per cent of all Australians" he laughs.

Farms are larger as land becomes more arid—as pasture becomes sparse more land is needed to maintain livestock.

Brian was raised on a "small" farm of 800 acres at Cedar Creek, 120 miles from Sydney. His family farmed 70 head of Guernseys. Brian remembers milking in the open milking shed and suffering cold fingers when the frost was on the ground.

He finds teaching in Canada somewhat different from teaching in Australia. He says he is surprised by the amount of paper used in teaching. "There's always a lineup at the duplicator" he remarks referring to teachers mimeographing work sheets for pupils.

He is enjoying his small charges. At an average age of eight they are somewhat younger than the 10 year-olds he's used to. He feels smaller children remain keen about school and he enjoys them.

"I like little kids... it's good fun teaching them" Brian says, although he adds his class looked at him like "stunned bunnies" when he first opened his mouth—they are having trouble getting used to his broad Australian accent.

At home in Australia Brian is fond of coaching his Australian rules football team, a game he says bears some resemblance to soccer—but not much.

"There's going to be one Ottawa Crescent class playing it by the end of the year" he grins. They'll probably be cheering with an Australian accent, too.



Brian Jones, exchange teacher from Australia, is teaching in Guelph and living north of Rockwood at the residence of Mrs. William Oakes.



Betty Oakes of Fifth Line Eramosa, north of Rockwood, is now teaching in Sydney, Australia on an educational exchange program.

Free Press

rockwood and district

Rockwood Digest

Rockwood Sunshine Club held their first meeting of the New Year recently according to submitted reports. President Mrs. Christine Robertson chaired the meeting while Mrs. Florence May opened with piano renditions of several old favorites.

Thanks were the order of the day as Bert Davidson thanked Mrs. Elsie Leitch for untiring effort looking after the club's money. He also thanked those sending cheer while in hospital.

William Hayden was thanked by the president for setting up the hall and straightening up after meetings. Wilbur Patterson will assist him this year.

A card was received from Mrs. Alvena McDougall and the Kingabury family thanking club members for sympathy shown at the loss of their mother. A letter was read from Mrs. Edith Kemble of Ruddington, England who attended club meetings while visiting relatives in Rockwood this summer. Enclosed pictures of the Rochester, New York, trip were enjoyed.

Miss Gladys Hanna was appointed club treasurer and Mrs. Robertson was unanimously asked to remain as president.

Guest speaker was Mrs. J.I. McFadzean, coordinator for the V.O.N. speaking on friendly visiting and family support.

Mrs. Jean Kay and Henry Leachman were high scorers for euchre. Mrs. Margaret McPhedran and Mr. Hayden won crokinole, with nine tables in play. Lunch was served by Mrs. Elsie Leitch and Henry Leachman.

Rockwood Horticultural Club will hold their first 1981 meeting Wednesday January 21, 8 p.m. at the Town Hall. All visitors are welcome and are asked to bring copies of seed catalogues for discussion on purchasing vegetable and flower seeds.

Schneders Reliable Sweets are delighted with new orders to place their homemade candy in four major Eaton's stores in Toronto. The Eaton Centre, Yorkdale and Don Mills Malls, and Scarborough Town Centre will soon be selling Rockwood's fine sweets under the factory's own name.

Factory manager Paul Rutnan says he hopes to have candy making demonstrations in all stores by the end of January.

Please call Jennifer Barr at the Acton Free Press 853-2010 or 856-9096 evenings with Rockwood news, personals, or community coming events.

Everton Village skating rink

by June Jansen
Thanks to the efforts of an Everton couple, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Erdelac, the neighbors in the community now have a skating rink. Mr. Erdelac decided to build a skating rink this winter for something to do. He has invited everyone in the community to come and skate in his back yard. He usually leaves the lights on until about 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. Your Everton neighbors appreciate your generous offer Mr. Erdelac.

The Ware family, Jim, Barb, David and Timmy, attended a party at Ligny Women's Institute Community Hall near Milton, Saturday, January 10, 1981.

Mrs. Phidela Drouillard (formerly Mrs. John W. Snow), 88 years young, was hostess to a family dinner of turkey and all the trimmings.

About 60 members of

Phidela's family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, attended. Senior Citizens of Milton with Mr. Tom Bradley's musical group entertained for dancing or just good listening. A few games of euchre were played.

Birthdays greetings were delivered to those with January birthdays by the children who in turn received a balloon. A good time was enjoyed by all, especially the little ones.

Despite the cold weather of the past week the boy scouts were camping last weekend. There were also many snowmobilers and cross country skiers enjoying themselves.

If you have any news to share with the residents of the village please phone me at 856-4774, evenings or at 853-2010 during the day, and I will be glad to put the news in the Everton column.



Turkey winner at Edon Mills gun and rod club turkey shoot is Wayne McHugh of Milton. He shot 34.

Edon Mills Tree burning

by Mrs. G. MacDougall
The president, Mrs. Anna Wilson presided over the meeting of the Friendly Seniors on Wednesday and wished the 15 members present a Happy New Year.

The group received a grant from Eramosa Township which was gratefully accepted. A representative from New Horizons is scheduled to attend the meeting of February 4. Some euchre games and refreshments followed the business.

Get well wishes go out to Mrs. Evelyn Barden who had the misfortune to fall down a flight of stairs while in Toronto. Evelyn suffered injuries to her head and back and will be confined to St. Joseph's Hospital in Guelph for several days.

Mrs. Anna Wilson is in Guelph General Hospital and best wishes for a speedy return home are extended to her. It was a bitterly cold night for the Tree Burning but those who braved the weather enjoyed skating, sleigh riding or joy rides on the snowmobiles.

Hot chocolate and doughnuts were served at the booth, and one could warm their hands around the fire from the trees.

Ospringle Lots of holiday season visitors

by Doris Fines
Mr. and Mrs. Max Schotach, Heidi and Michael, visited over the Christmas holidays at the home of Bonnie's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Pink at Burk's Falls. Her mother Mrs. Rose Bryon was there also. They visited with friends at North Bay, and did some skiing despite the 40 below temperatures.

Bruce and Anne Smith, with wee son Brent, had a busy round of activity over the holidays. Christmas week was spent at Meaford with Bruce's parents Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Smith. The weekend before, they visited in Guelph with Anne's parents Mr. and Mrs. George Kearns and the weekend after they were at the home of Anne's aunt Mr. and Mrs.

Earle White at Woodbridge, with all the family present.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Wynne, Deborah and Eric, visited over the holiday season with Ernie's sister Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thomas and family at Burlington. They also travelled to the home of Lorna Young at Agincourt. On Sunday, Ernie's sister Shirley Crackett and a friend from Toronto, were guests of the Wynnes.

New Year's day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Norman McKenzie were Norma's mother Mrs. Flora Grieve of Guelph, Lyda McLachlan of Waterloo, Linda McKenzie and Rick Cordick of Guelph, and Bill and Lorlynn McKenzie of Ospringle. Mr. and Mrs. Barry

Clarke's guests on New Year's day were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Grace and Miss Ann Wylie of Georgetown. Mrs. William Henderson of Belwood, and Mr. and Mrs. Ross Ferguson, were guests on New Year's with Mrs. Thomas Fines and Doris. Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ferguson and Ryan spent New Year's day with Sandra's parents Mr. and Mrs. William Johnston and Barbara of Grand Valley.

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Rockwood

Rockwood Bowling League results for Jan. 6, 1981.

The Rovers 5 pts. Gordon Ostrander 586, vs. Four Corners Six 3 pts. Don McKersie 612. The Countrymen 7 pts. Bert Gould 567 vs. Ernie's Joke Randy Feast 620. Nite Hawks 5 pts. Roy Nightingale 597 vs. The Unpredictables 3 pts. Kevin McGarry 523. The Guelphites 7 pts. Jim Cerniak 533 vs. Royal Six Letta Kingston 549. No. 8 3 pts. Paul Holman 596 vs. Corner Pins 1 pt. Jan Loof 586. The Lost Causes 5 pts. Walker McLaren 670 vs. The Strikers 3 pts. Evan Saylor 678.

Evan Saylor is still leading the men with an average of 223. Ernie Van Driel has an average of 207. The "Nite Hawks" still lead the league with 77 points.

Men bowling over 600 were: Evan Saylor 678, Walker McLaren 670, Jim Cerniak 633, Howard Dunk 627, Ted Justin 621, Don McKersie 612, How Gordon 607.

Women bowling over 500 were: Ann Parkinson 575, Letta Kingston 549, Ernie Van Driel 548, Marg McKersie 540, Joy Halliburton 534, Ann Van Milligan 533, Sue Nightingale 523.

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