



Melville Masters Newsletter – Nov/Dec 2012

ENDURANCE SWIMMING by
Pam Walker

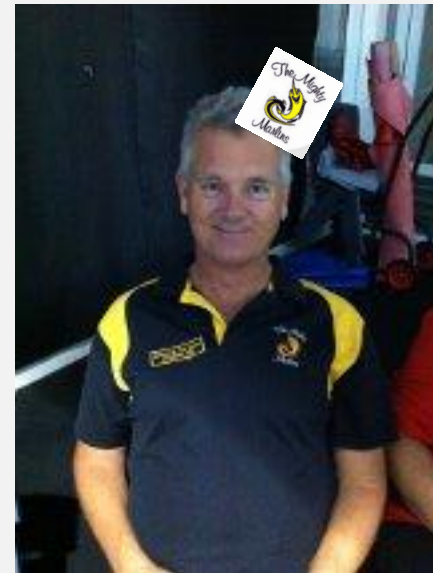
Hi from Singapore to all
Endurance swimmers . I hope
you are doing your swims in
my absence

So far I haven't taken myself
off to a pool to keep up my
training. I was talking to Jessica's
swimming coach yesterday and he
invited me to join the Singapore
Fossils but the times are not suitable
and I can't get there easily so will
have to do my own thing.

Just keep swimming!



**Marlin of the month
for December 2012:
Congratulations to Ivan!**



Swim Thru Perth – Sunday 13th January (by Greg)

The Swim Thru Perth is Australia's oldest open water swimming event. It started in 1912 and this was the 94th time the event has been held.

The course has changed over the years, and starting last year, has become an out and back course in Matilda Bay of either 1.6km or 4km (so no more "nude bus"! J , ask someone if you don't know).

The Melville Marlins swimming this year were Rowena, Pam W, Sarah B, Frank, Murray (1.6km) and Greg (4km). Also spotted was former member Kym Low. Murray's son also swam.

It actually turned out to be quite an overcast morning, and with a very strong easterly wind blowing straight into the bay. As a result the conditions were very choppy. The course consisted of a 1.6km loop, followed by a longer 2.4 km second loop for the 4km swimmers. As usual our friends, the jellies, were there. Big brown ones to head-butt, smaller white ones to use as hand paddles, and for good measure one or two stingers thrown in. Murray unfortunately couldn't finish as he swallowed half the Swan River going up into the chop and was vomiting (I think I'd throw up after a single mouthful of brown Matilda Bay water!).

Rowena and Pam W both won their age groups, and Rowena even beat Shelley Taylor-Smith! J Unfortunately prizes were only awarded for the 4km swim. This was the only slight gripe with this event. Everything else was well organized and coordinated. The on water support with boats and paddlers was particularly helpful as sighting was quite difficult in the conditions. This is an iconic event in the WA open water swim calendar and is something we should all try and do at least once. Don't worry, trust me, the jellies are friendly!

Wish these
b@#\$\$
swimmers
would
get lost!



Melville Masters – a unique travel invitation



From swim member Lynne Alguire

Canada boasts of its many pristine splendours, unique wildlife, fantastic outdoor sports and leisure experiences for travellers in both summer and winter.

Most Australians focus on the activities on the west coast and the sights between Vancouver and Calgary. However, if you go further east to Manitoba in July and August you can travel through the vast, flat grain growing prairies to Winnipeg.

During these months, every year, my husband and I live in the Riding Mountain National Park, 250 kms north west of Winnipeg. Our cabin is situated in the old campgrounds in the Wasagaming townsite on the shores of Clear Lake. There are 525 permanent cabins and we form a community that has electricity to each for lighting, cooking, heating, cooling, internet access, cable TV but very quaintly, there is no running water! Keeping an eye on the level of the fresh water in the pail and disposing of the grey water is part of the daily routine.

From May to October, Wasagaming in the park and nearby Onanole (a town on a small hill – on a knoll – Onanole!) are vibrant hamlets catering to Canadians who enjoy the outdoors and want to use every hour possible of their short summer.

Summer days are often wet with sudden thunderstorms and awesome lightning shows. It can also be cold (5 degrees) one day and into the high 20's the next day. A hat, bathers, fleece and a rain jacket are always nearby.

Clear Lake freezes over in winter so it doesn't warm up enough for swimming until mid summer. However, canoeing or cruising on a pontoon are great ways to be out on the water.

One of my favourite outings is to go to the pebbly south shore of the lake to swim and light a fire near the beach to roast weiners. Despite huge trees and dense undergrowth summer fire bans are not part of the Manitoban lifestyle!

A unique feature of the old campgrounds is the pine log cook shack. Each group of ten cabins shares one of these covered 'cook outs' consisting of wood stoves, tables and benches. Pancake breakfasts, toasting marshmallows, playing cards, entertaining, playing music and making late night smores (chocolate and marshmallow between chocolate biscuits) in the cook shack keep us outdoors enjoying the long daylight hours. Bear, moose and elk roam in the park. Squirrels and prairie dogs scamper around the cabins building their winter nests. In the evenings, loons call from the lake. Coyotes howl at night from the wilderness areas. A trip to the washroom in the dark seems very scary when the wind combines with the howling and the trees cast shadows across the pathway.

Wasagaming central includes an excellent museum and interpretive centre operated by Parks Canada wildlife rangers. Boutiques, restaurants, a trading post (general store and supermarket), a community art gallery, cinema, the Loodramat as well as souvenir shops line the Main Street. Two 'foodie favourites' are cinnamon buns, with two stores baking huge buns for breakfast and to tempt the evening strollers, there are three parlours providing soft and hard ice cream, sodas, slush puppies and candy. *Boo in the Park*, when Halloween comes in August, is a summer specialty with the restaurants and stores decorating the town and providing candy to the hundreds of adults and children who dress up in costumes and visit the park. Up to 5000 people come to the area for the annual outdoor concert on 'July long'. Mounties in full ceremonial uniform mingle with the audience for crowd control.

Lynne's unique travel invitation contd.

No alcohol is sold in the park. Manitoba has strict laws regarding liquor sales yet strangely we buy wine, coolers and spirits at the Onanole hardware store and packaged beer at the back door of the nearby hotel. Over the counter sales in the hotel are not permitted. All liquor must be transported in the trunk of the car.

To the north, about 45 minutes from our cabin is the town on Dauphin – one of the boarding points for the train heading to the wilderness area of Churchill. This train provides a slow, overnight trip past the tree line and over permafrost and muskeg to tourists hoping to see a polar bear.

West Aussies travel the globe. If you have the time to get away from the tourist sights of Whistler, Banff, Jasper, the Calgary Stampede or are heading towards Churchill, then follow the Trans Canada Highway through Moose Jaw, Regina to Brandon, then 45 minutes north, to join Hugh and I for a few days of prairie hospitality and a swim in the lake. All Melville Masters welcome!

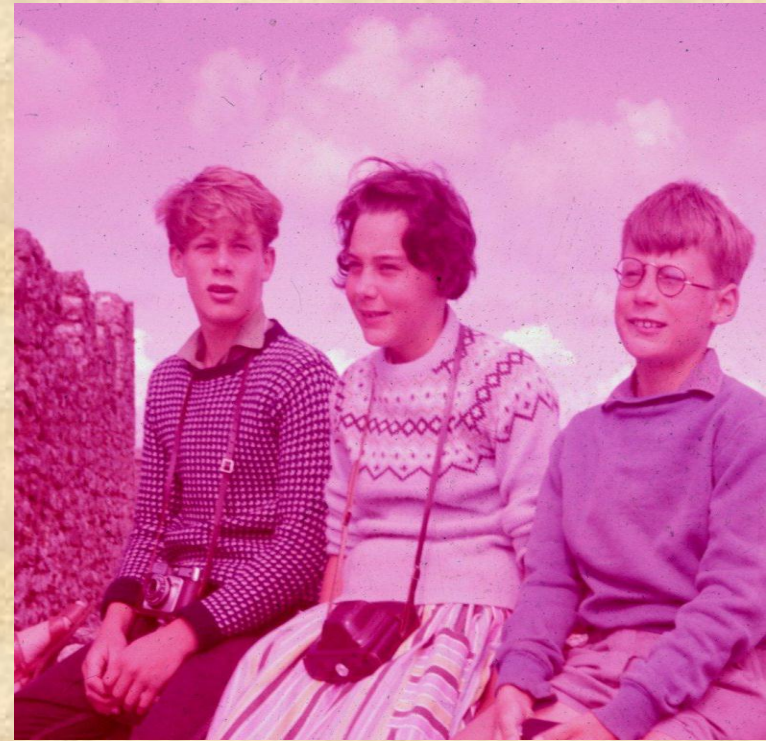
I have been travelling to Manitoba regularly for the past 30 years and am still finding new routes. Round the world fares seem to be cheaper and provide the option of visits to other countries during the same trip eg Paris-Canada-Beijing or London-Canada-Singapore or New Zealand-Canada-Istanbul. During 2012 I travelled using frequent flyer points – Perth-Sydney-Vancouver-Winnipeg then returned Winnipeg-Washington (two week stopover)-Frankfurt-Bangkok-Singapore-Perth. This year I am flying Perth-Frankfurt-Toulouse (8 day stopover)-Florence (8 day stopover)-Denver-Winnipeg and returning Winnipeg-San Francisco-Sydney-Melbourne (Eagles AFL stopover!)-Perth.



Thanks Lynne,
For a really
Interesting article!



Guess who?



Yes, you all know one of the people in this photo! Who can guess the mystery person?? Send your guesses to: mareeh39@hotmail.com and the answer will be revealed in the next edition.

THAT EXPLAINS IT ALL (With thanks to Noela)

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this I will give you a life span of 20 years." The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only 10 years and I'll give you back the other 10" And God saw that it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks and make them laugh. For this I'll give you a 20 year life span."

The monkey said " Monkey tricks for 20 years? That's a long time to perform. How about I give you back 10 like the dog did?"

And again, God saw that it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this I will give you a life span of 60 years".

The cow said " That's a tough life you want me to live for 60 years. How about 20 and I'll give you back the other 20". And God agreed that it was good.

On the fourth day God created humans and said "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this I'll give you 20 years".

But the human said "Only 20 years? Could you give me my 20, the 40 the cow gave back, the 10 the monkey gave back and the 10 the dog gave back – that make 80, OK?" "OK" God said "You asked for it".

So that is why, for our first 20 years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next 40 years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next 10 we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren, and for the last 10 years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone. Life has now been explained to you.

WALKING THE DOG (from John Musty)

Reportedly, a woman was flying from Seattle to San Francisco .

Unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sacramento along the way.

The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft the plane would re-board in 50 minutes..

Everybody got off the plane except one lady who was blind.

A man had noticed her as he walked by and could tell the lady was blind because her guide dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her throughout the entire flight..

He could also tell she had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached her, and calling her by name, said, "*Kathy, we are in Sacramento for*

almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?"

The blind lady said, "No thanks, but maybe Buddy would like to stretch his legs."

Picture this:



All the people in the gate area came to a complete stand still when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a guide dog for the blind! Even worse, the pilot was wearing sunglasses !

People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines!

True story.....

Have a great day and remember.....

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR.

