

Belgian News

Smurfs, mussels, waffles and AGMs . . .

by Georges Bernard
The Abel Tasman Club will be the venue where the Belgian Club of Victoria will hold its October 23 Mussel Festival lunch, from 12.30 until 3.30 pm.

The Dutch club is located at 60 Rosstown Road, Carnegie, it is also known as Carnegie Hall and used for the popular local dance on two Saturday nights a month. In case you did not know mosselen or moulesfritten and mayonnaise are the Belgian national dish, there are many ways of making mosselen but the popular method is a la marinere, with Belgian beer or white wine, shallots, parsley and butter.

For those who love mussels and chips *a la Belge* it is a must event, other lovely food will be on offer and a fine selection of Belgian beers of course. One of the special dishes is witlof with ham and cheese one of my favourites.

The Club is providing rijsepap and Dame Blance with Chocolate sauce as deserts.

It is expected that many Netherlanders will try to attend because mosselen en fritten are the favourite for the Netherlanders who visit Antwerpen. Here is your chance to revive those tastebuds and in turn support your Dutch club.

Contact Carolina De Stoop carolineds213@hotmail.com or ring myself on 9710 1309 (message), or check the Belgian in Melbourne facebook site, if you wish to attend, you need to contact us now because our famous cook . . . Tineke needs to order the mussels.

BCV AGM

Prior to the Mussel lunch the Belgian Club will hold its Annual General Meeting at the Abel Tasman Club, this meeting will commence at 11.30 am.

A report has been provided to members outlining the 13 events organized in the past year. These events ranged from Easter egg hunt, receptions for sporting team and trade missions, national day and St Nicholas.

Financial members of the club are requested to attend and elect a new committee, of course the current committee is willing to continue!

SMURFS MANIA

With the school holidays the cinemas were crowded as our youngsters saw the Smurfs. Rumour has it that the Smurfs will appear at the Mussel festival lunch. Did you know that the Smurfs are a Belgian export initiative, *yes they are*, Brussels born writer/artist Pierre Culliford (Peyo), created them in 1958, unfortunately he

died in 1962, but they are continuing, and are one of Belgium's export miracles, like Tintin.

A new Tintin movie is due to be launched in December, and the Belgian Club is hoping to organize a film night.

The art of cartooning has flourished in Belgium with more than 700 comic strip authors, 'more comic strip artists per square kilometer than any other country in the world' according to the Belgian Comic Strip Center in Brussels.

This centre in the heart of Brussels commenced in 1989, and has more than 200,000 visitors a year. It is a historic collection of comic strips and houses four thousand square metres of exhibits relating to the art of cartooning, its research centre holds 40,000 titles in many languages. It is worthy of a visit "This kingdom of imagination is home to some of Belgium's best-known comic strip heroes: Tintin, Spirou, Bob and Bobette, the Smurfs, Lucky Luke, Blake and Mortimer, Marsupilami . . ." according to the www.comicscenter.net website.

ST NICHOLAS

The Belgian Club of Victoria's St Nicolas function will be held at Alma Road Community House, East St Kilda on December 3 a Saturday. This function has been very successful in the past two years, and it is expected this will be the case this year.

A fine spread of Belgian foods is usually provided by attendees for the afternoon tea.

DUTHCARE AND BELGIANS

Currently there are two Belgian born residents at the Princess Margriet Age Care facility. The Netherlands speaking Flemish find that the facility provides excellent service, with the advantage of being able to communicate in their native tongue. Dutchcare has a considerable number of Dutch speaking staff, which improves the communications between residents and staff, it is well known that the older you become the more you revert to your foundation language.

BCV WEBSITE

The club's new revitalized website is worthy of a visit, it has loads of information on events, resources and links.

The website has been rebuilt by Sagrys Aelbregt the club's PR/marketing person. It is available on www.belgianclubvictoria.org.au so for further information on events like the Mussel Festival you can find the detail on this site.

AND HERE COMES ... MILOW

Milow is a singer-songwriter who plays acoustic guitar. He has a great band that contributes to his success. He is also a fellow country man of mine! Yes indeed, Milow is also from Belgium. Milow was first heard of on the 2004 Humo's Rock Rally competition, which is a Belgian contest for rock bands, organised by Humo Magazine every second year since 1978. He reached a position in the finals but just out of reach of a top three.

He was born Jonathan Vandebroek on 14 July 1981 in Borgerhout (Antwerp) but his hometown is Leuven. For his performing career

he took on the stage name of Milow.

This wonderfully original Belgian singer-songwriter is now one of Europe's most successful contemporary DIY (do it yourself) artists. He is one of



By Frieda G De Doncker

the hardest-working artists in music today. In the last 2 years he has toured right across continental Europe and Canada and in the last 3 years has played more than 300 shows in 20 different countries, all while running his own record label (Homerun Records) and publishing company.

In 2006, Milow produced his first album: *The Bigger Picture* together with Nigel Powell from the British group *Unbelievable Truth*. The first single from the album, "One Of It", was played frequently on Belgian radio stations. The second single "You Don't Know" reached number 3 in the Ultratop 50, which is the Belgian chart for most popular singles.

In September 2008, Milow released a cover version of "Ayo Technology". This song was originally written and recorded by 50 Cent, an American rapper from Jamaica. The song stayed on the charts for 340 weeks in 14 different countries. The video also went viral on YouTube with over 50 million views.

Milow spent a year as an exchange student in California, USA with the AFS Intercultural Programs. This must have contributed to his remarkable knowledge of English.

On 29 September, 2009 Milow set a world record by performing in front of 50 mine workers at the bottom of the Pyhäsalmi Mine, 1,430 metres below sea level. This mine is the deepest metal mine in Europe and is located in the Pyhäjärvi municipality in the south of Oulu province in Finland. The zinc and copper mine is owned by Inmet Mining, a Canadian mining corporation. Back to Milow's music ... In 2008 Milow recorded a duet with Norwegian singer/songwriter Marit Larsen entitled "Out of My Hands". The song appeared on Milow's album "Coming of Age" which was released in Belgium later that year.

His band members are: Nina Babet - Voice/Percussions
Joris Caluwaerts - Keyboard
Jasper Hautekiet - Bass
Frederik Van Den Berghe - Drums

Tom Vanstiphout - Guitar/Voice
His unmistakable voice, fascinating stories and stage presence make him one of the world's greatest performers. It was a real pleasure to have introduced to wonderful M-I-L-O-W. Enjoy his music



Photo: Alex Vanhee

www.millow.com