

YTTERBIUM

131

October 2020

ANZAPA Mailing 317

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Brownian Noise

Again it looks like this issue of *Ytterbium* will be prepared as a PDF, to become part of a PDF mailing. So there will be no cutting and pasting this issue, hence no Rotsler cartoon and no filler sticker.

I plan to upload a copy of the September and October 2020 *Ansible* PDFs to David Grigg's dropbox.

This will probably be just a set of lists of stuff I'd put aside to record and comment on some time.

Recent reading

(1 June 2020 –)

Nothing completed here. I am still finishing a couple of books started in March.

Films

Nothing doing here either. Who knows when I'll catch up with the latest *Bill and Ted*.



New chocolate round up

New chocolate products I've tried since the last report. Highlighted ones were my favourites.

Kitkats from Japan: Share packs (contain individually wrapped packets)

Sakura Japanese Sake, mini 12, 139.2 g, pale pink chocolate kitkats. The outer pack appeared to be paper, with the inner wrapped pieces the usual colourfully printed foil.

Party ice cream, mini 12, 139.2 g, white chocolate kitkats. The outer pack and the inside wrapped pieces were all colourfully printed foil. The inner piece had messages such as 'Thank you', 'sweet' printed on them.

Yuzu Matcha, mini 11, 127.6 g, green chocolate kitkats. The outer pack and the inside wrapped pieces were all colourfully printed foil.

Care package sent by my cousin in new Zealand

Cadbury Caramilk Hokey Pokey block, 170 g, "A golden blend of caramelised white chocolate and golden hokey pokey pieces." Cocoa 23%, and the 'hokey pokey' was described as honeycomb pieces. Quite sweet, but not overly, and as I like caramel and honeycomb, very nice.

Whittaker's 92% cocoa Ghana intense dark chocolate, 100 g. I shared this with my friend Mark. Not as bitter as I was expecting, and apparently the sugar content is less than Lindt at a similar cocoa level.

Bought locally (usually supermarket)

Kitkat Chunky Gold Krisp, 45 g, 'single finger' packaging. "Three layers of crisp wafer, topped with delicious golden white choc and waffle pieces, all on a gold choc base. This was great, and almost topped the hokey pokey listed above.



Kitkat Goopy Caramel, 45 g, 4-fingered block. Smaller size packaging compared to the usual Kitkat bars.

Kitkat Mint Cookie Fudge, 45 g, 4-fingered block. Smaller size packaging compared to the usual Kitkat bars. Very tasty, but I'm a sucker for mint.

Kitkat Hazel Nutty block, 170 g, 22% cocoa. "Crisp wafer fingers covered in creamy hazelnut flavoured white choc, topped with coffee biscuit pieces, all on a smooth chocolate base." A strange mix up of flavours, I didn't get a real hazelnut hit, and too much like white chocolate overall.

Kitkat ice creams, 4 pack, 360m mL, 'with crushed CHOC WAFER coating'. The inside was described as wafer flavoured, and quite underwhelming.

Cadbury Dairy Milk packed with Crunchie block, 180 g, 27% cocoa. "Dairy Milk milk chocolate with chunky golden **honeycomb** pieces." I don't know why they bothered, but the honeycomb was tastier than what is usually in a Crunchie bar.

Cadbury Dairy Milk Coconut Rough, 45 g, 27% cocoa. “Dairy milk chocolate with toasted coconut.”

Cadbury Dairy Milk Marvellous Creations Birthday Cake, 50 g, cocoa 27%. “Dairy milk chocolate with marshmallows, 100s & 1000s and biscuit pieces.”

Whittaker’s and Bundaberg Brewed Ginger Caramel in 5 Roll refined Creamy Milk Chocolate, 250 g dairy mil33% cocoa. This tasted pretty much like standard Whittaker’s creamy caramel block, and then you got a big ginger hit as you continued eating it. Not quite worth the fanfare, and I prefer the plain caramel.

Dark Violet Crumble, 50 g, Robert Menz. I prefer the milk chocolate version. Still the best honeycomb around.

Arnotts Iced Coffee slice, 185 g, inspired by Dare. “Crunchy biscuit, delicious Dare Iced Coffee cream made with Robusta and Arabica coffee, and Arnotts REAL Australian made CHOCOLATE . Carefully combined to create your perfect indulgence.”

I was expecting a soft filled biscuit like a Mint Slice, but it turned out to be a solid biscuit. Disappointing.

Arnott’s Double Choc Caramel Cream Flavour Timtam, 180 g, 9 biscuits. This package was also labelled “Fans’ Choice”. I prefer the other gooey caramel Timtam, but the double chocolate coat was okay, even if it meant what cream was there was lost in the biscuit and chocolate.

Other ‘tasty’ products tried

Arnott’s shapes Lamb and Rosemary, 165 g. Another pack containing ‘Australian’ and ‘Tasmanian’ shaped biscuits. Quite tasty, bit not my favourite of the new flavours.

Arnott’s Chicken Parma (one side) or Chicken Parmigiana (the other side of the box), 165 g. Again the Aust. and Tas. shapes, but not a very nice flavour. I’ll pass in the future, and for the record here in Victoria I’d go with Parma.



Coles limited edition Ultimate Apple Pie chips, 200 g. Allegedly based on their apple pie “filled with slices of sweet, juicy apples, raisins and cinnamon encased in a crisp buttery lattice pastry”. I didn’t get any of those taste sensations, and the chips themselves were rough, uneven and overcooked.

Allens Iced Coffee Milk Bottles (inspired by Oak), 170 g. The flavour wasn’t really ‘full on’ as the packet promoted, but an okay change from plain milk bottles.

Allens Flavoured Milk Bottles (inspired by Oak), 170 g, a mixture of Chocolate; Strawberry; and Vanilla Malt milk bottles. As it turns out I think the Strawberry flavour worked the best of the four, despite preferring iced coffee milk.

Pretzel M&Ms, 130 g, milk chocolate coated pretzel centres in a thin crisp shell. Didn’t really do anything for me, as I’m not a fan of pretzels. Might have been marketed as some weird new taste salty/sweet or something.

Recent beers tried

[LynC can feel free to skip this section].

Details from the various cans and bottles of beer I drank, and sometimes shared. No kegged stuff as that is still not available locally. This list is of new and tasty beers. Repeat drinks have not been reported. If the date consumed is on my notes I have included it. Maybe I'll google some screen shots. Now that I have my new purple-topped bin, for glass only, it has started to gain a nice clinky bottom coverage of empty bottles. I cannot put it out for collection until 23 November. Rules have also changed for what can and cannot go into our yellow-lidded bin (recycling). Plastic '2' are only okay if they are bottles, not allowed if they are caps.

Maybe a nice table would have worked with these, but for now it's just retyping notes, and hopefully getting the spelling correct. Containers are assumed to be bottles unless stated otherwise. [My comments about the beer added in blue text.](#)

21 April, 7.30 pm, zoom session

'Ale stars' discussion, Local Taphouse with Blizzard brewers.

A birthday present from my friend Mark Sanders. He paid for the session, and picked up the beers from the Local Taphouse in St Kilda and dropped them off at my place the day before.



Notes from the can labels.

1550 lager, 330 mL, 4.2%
(Blizzard Brewery is 1550 m above sea level)

Alpenglow, NEIPA, 5.0%, 330 mL
A hazy, fruity and juicy beer style inspired by the Alpenglow experienced at our mountain home.

Avalanche Amber Ale, 330 mL, 5.5%

A sweet biscuity aroma with a touch of chocolate and caramel malts, and a healthy dose of cascade and ella hops and our house Belgian yeast is what makes this amber le slide down real easy.

Snowgarden, Witbier-bière blanche, 330 mL, 5.2%

6 parts wheat, 6 parts pilsner. A bag of nuggets and a whole lot os saaz. Add some styrian wolf, coriander and make it bitter with orange peel. We welcome you to our garden in the snow.

My favorite of the 4 was the Avalanche amber ale.

1 June

The Great Deluge, Garage Project, Wellington, New Zealand, sour dark ale, 750 mL, 9.6%.

Bhjang Thandai, Garage Project, NZ, milk stout, 650 mL, 7.7%, brewed with lactose and spiced with almonds, water melon seeds, saffron, green cardamon and black pepper.

Dessert in a can, Amundsen, Norway, chocolate peanut butter caramel brownie, 10.5%, 330 mL can.
[Probably the sweetest beer I have ever had.](#)

Endless Endings, barley wine and imperial stout, 15.5%, 375 mL, Anchorage Brewing Company, USA.
[Wow, a blending of two of my preferred beer varieties, and it delivered. Very very nice.](#)

Let the Day Begin 2019, golden sour beer aged in oak barrels with coffee, 5.5%, 375 mL, Future Mountain, Reservoir (Melbourne suburb), Victoria.

King Valley Kolsch, 330 mL, 4.9%, We call this beer our elbow bender, a hint of malt sweetness and mild fruitiness from special yeast sourced from Cologne, all in a light bodied European golden ale. King River Brewing, King Valley, Victoria.

Cliffhanger Hefeweizen, 330 mL, 4.6%, King River Brewing, Victoria. Easy drinking sweet wheat beer, nose of clove, subtle banana esters.

King River IPA, 330 mL, 6.1%, King River Brewing, Victoria. Hoppy, deep amber to copper sessionable IPA, bitterness balanced with malt and chocolate, piney resinous and citrus notes.

June

Twilight of the Gods, Garage Project, NZ, 13.1%, 650 mL, barrel-aged co-fermentation of Riesling juice and strong blonde ale.

Garbage Stout, Garage Project, NZ, 11.8%, 440 mL can. Nine types of malted barley, oats and rye, pretzels, potato crisps, rice crispies, marshmallows, lea leaves, raisins, toasted coconut, vanilla, hazelnut, coffee, cacao nibs. Big, black, boozy and utterly delicious. "Kitchen sink cookie in a can."

Baltyk Tasman, malbec barrel-aged Baltic porter, 8 Wired, NZ, 330 mL, 9,0%. Brewed with Polish hops, aged for 6 months in emptied malbec barrels.

F*ck the Christmas Tree is on Fire, orange and coffee oatmeal stout, 330 mL, 10%. Uiltje Brewing Co, Haalem, The Netherlands. Milky oatmeal stout amplified with roasted Jamaican coffee beans and truckloads of orange peels.

Russian Imperial Stout MMXX, Modus Operandi, Australia, 500 mL can, 8.5%

Ember's IPA, red IPA, Moon Dog, Victoria, 7%, 440 mL can. Red IPA has a full-bodied malty backbone with bursts of citrus, pine from the Chinook, Amarillo and Simcoe hops.

The Boobrie (wicked tales of Scotland). Double mash whisky barrel-aged imperial stout. Amager Bryghun, Denmark, 12%, 330 mL. Should you ever decide to visit Scotland for bird watching, we kinda hope for you the Boobrie is one fowl that you're never gonna see. Ingredients include biscuits, café, café light, chocolate.

Stubborn Russian Imperial Stout 2020, Bright Brewery, Victoria, 330 mL, 12%. We look for a hearty boost with this rich blend of dark roasted malts, sweet layers of vanilla, chocolate and strong hints of espresso. But ... each vintage of ... stubborn ... has dark secrets waiting to be discovered.

21 July

The Guvnor II Part 4, 2 Brothers, Victoria, Extra Strong Ale, brandy barrel, 330 mL, 10%

Eagle eyed correspondents will have noticed that this is the bottle sitting next to the CoNZealand site selection voting slips after they are disposed of in my recycling bin. See PR4.

24 July

Rare Breed, Mountain Goat, Victoria, (500 mL?) can, 9%, barrel-aged blended porter. Given the pirate illo I suspect rum (or at least rum barrels) involved.

Cat's Pyjamas, Garage Project, 330 mL can, 5.3%, cream ale ... sweet maize ... makes it teeter on the edge of being the 'creaming soda' of the beer styles, then we go and add milk sugar and vanilla and push it over the edge.

Geezer Pleaser, extra special bitter, 375 mL can, 4.8%, Little Bang, South Australia.

I should have drunk this one at a virtual beers with my work boss, who is from the UK, but the timing didn't work out.

Espresso Quarantini, coffee agave brown porter, 440 mL can, 4%, 3 Ravens, Victoria. Brown porter brewed with espresso roast coffee, dak agave syrup and fresh oak chips. Inspired by the signature cocktail of a Melbourne CND bar. Should have been infused with tequila, but pandemic prevented that.

Horse Tongue, slightly sour barrel aged wheat beer, 22 Fl Oz, 5.4%, Anderson Valley, Boonville, CA, USA.

Oakey Dokey Stout, 440 mL can, 7%, Boatrockers, Victoria, oak-aged stout.

Mayday Hills Hoppy Sour, 3.8%, 330 mL, Bridge road brewing, Beechworth, Victoria. Year-round offering from Mayday Hills range. Pale malts, fermented with Brettanomyces Claaseni in American oak, local hops.

I try to keep up with the Mayday Hills releases, in memory of the Mayday Hills Psychiatric Hospital in Beechworth, where my cousin from New Zealand worked for a time, staying on my family farm, though by that time I was living in Melbourne.

FIVE, whisky barrel-aged imperial stout, 500 mL, 12.6%, Hawkers, Melbourne, Victoria. Fifth birthday limited edition brew.

Sticky Date Stout, Brew Crew series: 11, 355 mL can, 7.5%, Bad Shepherd, Cheltenham (Melbourne suburb), Victoria. Creamy and full-bodied with rich indulgent butterscotch caramel tones and just a hint of vanilla.

22 August

Funky Acid red, wild red ale 2020, 6.5%, (500 mL?), Boatrockers, Melbourne. Flanders red, lactic and acetic acids, multiple vintages spanning 6 years of barrel-aging, with the youngest 12 months.

26 August

Texas Tea, Garage Project, Wellington, NZ. 6.2%, 650 mL, a Texas brown ale brewed with warrior, Columbus and Simcoe hoops, Habarero chili and prickly pear.

27 August

Beer Blanket Comfort Stout, Epic, Auckland, NZ. 500 mL, 6%.

The Kalash, Russian imperial stout, 10.7%, 375 mL can, Hop Nation, Footscray (Melbourne suburb), Victoria. Aged in seasoned bourbon barrels for 4 months before being blended. Subtle oak and bourbon character integrate with dark chocolate, tar and spice

31 August

Stone Beer, 8.8%, 500 mL (ceramic bottle), limited release, wood fixed porter, Stone & Wood, Byron Bay, NSW.

1 September

Touchwood, elder flower and honey tripel, 9%, 650 mL, Garage Project, NZ. A Belgian tripel brewed with elder flower and honey.

2 September

Popcorn-u-copia Ale, salted caramel popcorn, 375 mL can, 6.0%. Bright Brewery, Victoria. Brewed with a mountain of fresh and crunchy King Valley popcorn, more than a pinch of salt, and lashings of sweet, sticky caramel.

Very sweet, but did not reach the Dessert in a Can experience. Lovely caramel though.

4 September

Vanilla Choc Mud Cake Stout, 500 mL can, 7.5%. Blackman's, Torquay, Victoria. This rich warming stout is brewed with numerous speciality grains including oats for that creamy mouth feel, chocolate and double roasted crystal, all yielding luscious layers of complex malty goodness, vanilla and a high finishing gravity make this dessert beer both sweet and satiating.

All I really remember is that it foamed so much while pouring that I had to use 4 glasses, wait for all to settle, and then finally empty the can into them

Banshee, whisky barrel-aged barley wine, 500 mL, 11.9%. Boatrocker, Victoria. Barley wine aged in Starwood whisky (ex-red wine) barrels. All about the malt, wonderful oak and Starward whisky.

Silhouette 2020, bourbon barrel-aged imperial oatmeal stout, 9.1%, 375 mL. Future Mountain, Reservoir, Victoria.

8 September

Bo and Luke Down Under Hazelnut and Cocoa Imperial Smoked Stout aged in rum barrels, 12.9%, 500 mL, Hawkers, Victoria. Along with sesquite and beechwood smoked malts and spicy rye, the addition of hazelnut and cocoa to our six month rum barrel-aged imperial smoked stout delivers a luscious smoky rich imperial stout with sweet milk chocolate and fresh hazelnut notes. Dessert anyone?

15 September

Oak-aged Praline, Tank 3 series 2020, 12 month barrel-aged praline stout, 750 mL, 6.5%. La Sirene, Victoria. Our famed praline sat in large format oak barrels for 12 months where the natural flora added a welcome acidity to the chocolatey praline.

Not really impressed about turning a nice praline stout a bit sour. This did not work for me.

Apollo After Dark, 440 mL can, 9.7%, Hawkers, Victoria. An unshy stout with orange, chocolate and a dose of lactose for a velvety mouthful.

As close as you'll get to drinking liquid Jaffas.

21 September

Surrender to the Void: Banoffee & Coffee, 440 mL can, 11.5%. Garage Project, Wellington NZ. An irregular series of pitch black stouts brewed using an enormous, complex malt bill and mounds of debaucherous adjuncts. In this edition the void eats all the cinnamon banoffee pies and washes them down with more coffee than is strictly good for it.

23 September

Kikimora 2019, barrel-aged with cherries and smoked red gum Russian imperial stout, 750 mL, 9.0%, Bad Shepherd, Cheltenham, Victoria. The kikimora haunts the darkest depths of your hoime. In the same spirit we've gone to the darkest depths of Meatmaiden's smoker to pull red gum wood for this barrel. With smoked wood and cherries, this deliciously rich and smoky beer will haunt you well after you've emptied your glass.

[Much better than we were expecting. A pity my local bottleshop has sold out.](#)

24 September

Galactopus, American barley wine, 10.1%, 375 mL can, Little Bang, SA. Barley wine style is a delicious, deeply malty, excessively strong ale from England. Americans like to throw a lot of hops into their beer.

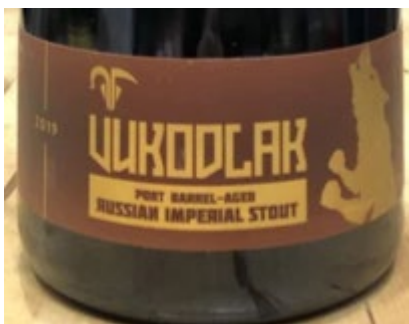
26 September

Lark barrel-aged Imperial JSP III, 12.8%, 440 mL can, Wolf of the Willows, Victoria. Individually selected empty Lark whisky barrels, filled with imperial version of Johnny Smoked Porter (JSP), and left to age, in this third year. The result is an imperial smoked porter with flavors of oak, vanilla, peat, dark chocolate, molasses, trffles and espresso. The casks were emptied and returned to Lark to become The Wolf Release whisky barrel exchange project 2020.

2 October

Vukodlak 2019, port barrel-aged Russian imperial stout, 750 mL, 9.0%, Bad Shepherd, Cheltenham, Victoria. With its werewolf origins, each night the Vukodlak shifts into a half-wolf. This beer has transformed with the sweet raisin tone sof the Buller wine port barrels, to create a moreish, almost dessert-like ber that will have you hunting for more.

[A fitting companion to the Kikimora, very nice.](#)



4 October

Into the Wood series, rye whisky barrel-aged imperial stout, 355 mL can, 10.5%, Stomping Ground, Collingwood (Melbourne suburb), Victoria. Aged in the Gospel rye whiskey barrels, big and bold on all fronts, featuring dark roasted notes of espresso, vanilla and oak.

6 October

Mayday Hills Mandarin Grisette, 330 mL, 5.0%, Bridge Road Brewers, Beechworth, Victoria. This grisette is a melding of the texture and aroma of a classic farmhouse style beer, with the vibrant refreshing characteristics of fresh mandarins. Brettanomyces in our foeder with the fruit gradually added at the end of fermentation.

7 October

Bourbon barrel Imperial reserve 2019, 750 mL, \approx 7.8 standard drinks, bourbon barrel imperial stout ale. Parish brewing Co, Broussard, Louisiana, USA.

Photo taken by my friend Mark, on his phone, at dinner Wednesday night.



9 October

Now what will I open for dinner and watching the AFL second semi final tonight?
I guess it will depend on what take away meal I end up ordering.

TV and DVDs

My only pay service at the moment is Foxtel , and I should probably ring up and see if I can negotiate a lower monthly fee while still being able to watch what I want to.

My free year of Apple TV on my ipad runs out soon, so I'd better see what I can watch on that over the next month. No success so far getting it to connect/project up onto my TV.

These are whole seasons with viewing completed during the time period below. I'm still catching up on things like *Doom Patrol* season 1, thanks for the tip Roman.

1 June – 8 October 2020.

28 Weeks After

Addams Family Reunion

Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey

Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure

Bumblebee

Howard Lovecraft and the Frozen Kingdom

Howard Lovecraft and the Kingdom of Madness

Howard Lovecraft and the Undersea Kingdom

It (2017)

It: Chapter Two

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom

Peter Rabbit

Spider-man: Far From Home

Yesterday

Zombieland Double Tap

Absentia (season 1)
The Accident (season 1)
Adam Hills : The Last Leg (season 20 Locked Down Under)
American Gods (season 1)
Baptiste (season 1)
Batwoman (season 1)
Between Two Worlds (season 1)
The Black List (season 7)
Bosch (season 6)
Chicago Med (season 4)
Colony (season 1)
Curb Your Enthusiasm (season 8)
DC's Legends of Tomorrow (season 5)
Elementary (season 7)
Family Guy (season 18)
Flack (season 2)
The Flash (seasons 5, 6)
Fleabag (season 2)
Flowers (season 1)
Future Man (season 2)
High Fidelity (season 1)
Intelligence (season 1)
Into the Badlands (season 1)
Julia Zemaro's Home Delivery (season 8)
Killing Eve (season 3)
Liar (season 2)
Mrs America (season 1)
New Amsterdam (season 2)
The New Pope (The Young Pope season 2)
Operation Buffalo (season 1)
The Outsider (season 1)
Perry Mason (2020) (season 1)
Reprisal (season 1)
Retrograde (season 1)
Rosehaven (season 4)
Roswell New Mexico (season 2)
Save Me (season 1)
Shaun Micalief's Mad as Hell (season 12)
The Simpsons (season 31)
Supergirl (season 5)
Tommy (season 1)
Vera (seasons 9, 10)
The Weekly With Charlie Pickering (season 6)
What We Do in the Shadows (season 2)

Agatha Christie's: The Pale Horse (mini-series)
James Cameron's History of Science Fiction (season 1)
McMillion\$ (doco season 1)
Miriam Margolyes: Almost Australian (doco mini-series)
Quiz (mini-series)
Robert Kirkman's Secret History of Comics (doco season 1)
Sean Micalief's On the Sauce (doco mini-series)

During the pandemic

Here's a photo of me wearing my John Picacio bandanna, ordered from the US. This photo was also taken by my friend Mark, who has an app on his phone that lets him make the background black. Daniel Andrews has dictated that if I wear it in public, I can be fined. Apparently 2 layers of fine silk are not enough to protect me from anyone more than 2 m away I might happen to encounter while out in public.



[In a usual printed and sent in *Ytterbium*, the white spaces would have included scanned or pasted in examples of chocolate wrappers, a Rotsler cartoon, interesting cartoons from the papers, and probably a fill-in spare sticker. I'll leave it to your imaginations to once again fill in the white spaces. As it is just a PDF for this mailing I've messed around with font colours.]