

# The Southern Yarn

January 2016



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

## downundercalendar

### FEBRUARY

*Australia Day/Waitangi Day*  
*Saturday, Feb. 6th, 2016, 6 pm*  
*Scandinavian Cultural Centre,*  
*764 Erin St.*

This is a fun social event where we celebrate our and enjoy great food prepared by some of the finest chefs in Winnipeg – YOU! So accept the challenge: Prepare any dish with KIWI FRUIT and compete for 1st Prize, Grand Champion, Best in Show and/or bring a salad, veggie dish or dessert. There might also be a fun trivia quiz on New Zealand and Australia – and more prizes! And don't forget – the Bar will be open.

### RSVP

If you let us know you are coming, we can be ready for you! RSVP to (204) 487-0067 or [social@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:social@downunderclub.mb.ca) or look for the new **RSVP page** under EVENTS on our website.

### Advertise in The Southern Yarn.

Contact Jenny (228-9959, [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca)) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca) or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.



Magic comes to the DUCW annually with the arrival of Santa for our youngest members!

## And Santa came!

Christmas came early for a bunch of excited DUCW kids on 5th December at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre. Santa's helpers had done their homework and chosen wisely to suit each child, for all were soon observed playing happily with

their new gift. The potluck was again a bounty! The meal, the music and the merriment lasted long. As one member put it: "With many of our relatives downunder, this is like our surrogate family, so we gladly gather and feast together!"

### NOW IS THE TIME to renew for 2016

Individual \$20 ... Couple/family \$30 ... Mail your cheques to the Club at the address on the back of this issue, pay in person at the next event, or take advantage of our new PayPal link on the website for faster and more secure payment. Any questions or comments, please contact Peter Debenham at [peter@pdilactg.ca](mailto:peter@pdilactg.ca) or 204-955-0393.

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## editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day -

Out with the old and in with the new. Well that's been the case already for the political leaders of the two countries of my citizenship. It will be interesting to see what happens south of the border in November! But that's nothing compared to the traumatic upheaval for many of our fellow planet Earth's citizens. Despite so much change and uncertainty in the world we can take comfort in the fact that good ol' mate-ship is still alive and well. Many new arrivals, here and downunder, are now experiencing the fair dinkum "g'day mate", even if those exact words are not always used. Just as (the collective) "we" experienced when "we" decided to migrate; and our parents; or theirs - that friendly greeting carries so much more. Folk chip in and see to your needs and comfort, and offer friendship. Of course that is not unique to our DUCW, but it is certainly present in good measure. And we also maintain a comforting measure of the familiar: Waitangi Day and Australia Day are still celebrated; ANZAC Day is still honored and commemorated; we still gather to share a meal and a pint. Looking forward to doing so with you in 2016.

This month our "Getting to know.." is reproduced from an Australian government website on Gallipoli and shares some of the thoughts of those in the trenches 100 years ago, on both sides of the conflict. Next month we're going to give you an insight into what goes into getting the Yarn to your mail-in- box.

And this humble little publication still hits the press - thanks to our regular contributors - Jenny Gates, Peter Munn, Brian Hydesmith, Murray Burt and others.

Enjoy!

From our house to yours, we wish you an exciting, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Christmas celebrations have come

and gone for most of us, and we can start the repacking of decorations and putting away of gifts. (In between shoveling of snow of course, which until the week before Christmas was something of a lost art.) But it was nice to enjoy a White Christmas, and especially the reasonably warm weather. With a strong El Nino forming in the Pacific, who knows what weather we can expect for the rest of the winter. But enjoy the warmer days, go skiing or sledding, and we look forward to seeing you at the Waitangi Day / Australia Day event on Feb. 6.

Regards,  
Peter

## president's ramblings

Peter Munn



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

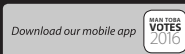


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## Who invented the Pavlova?

Who cares?! Just enjoy it! And if your baking skills are challenged in that regard, here are some tips from the Dutch chef Rob Kabboord. Before you start:

- Make sure your whisking bowl is clean. Give it a light wash with vinegar before use.
- Have everything ready on the bench. When you start mixing the pavlova, you should not stop, unless your kitchen is on fire.
- The whole thing should take less than 10 minutes (not including cooking time) to prepare.
- Make sure the eggs are as fresh as possible.
- The egg whites must not contain any trace of yolk. Separate the eggs individually and bring the whites to room temperature

For his recipe: [\[Read more\]](#)



## Onya mate!

A Melbourne man who picked up a camera just five years ago has won the National Geo-

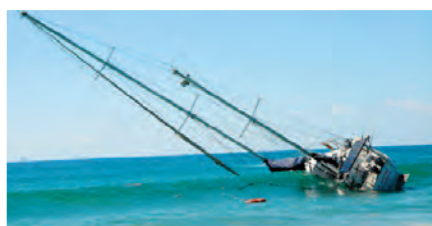


graphic 2015 photo contest.

James Smart, from Balwyn, beat more than 13,000 entries to take out the prestigious competition with his photo of a tornado in Colorado (detail shown above). [\[Read more\]](#)

## Aussie world sailors land in NZ

What started from Australia in 2001 as a voyage around the world has ended on a beach in Northland's Ruakaka. Geoff Phillips, 77, and his wife Aylin were side-tracked in their adventure when they first reached New



Zealand. They decided to make it their home and "We have been living on the boat for the past five or six years, it's been a wonderful lifestyle". Mr Phillips said there was no shortage of offers to help pull the boat back out the sea, but because of damage to the hull there was no guarantee it would stay afloat. He said the yacht's grounding had made him realise now might be the time to make a new home on dry ground. [\[More online\]](#)



## Blenheim: Horrors, heroes of war

In a vast, dimly lit space a few minutes out of Blenheim, some of the greatest stories of World War I are told by one of the world's greatest storytellers.

The Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre's Knights of the Sky exhibition combines the remarkable private Great War collection of Kiwi film-maker Sir Peter Jackson with his cinematic expertise - and that of his colleagues at WingNut Films and Weta Workshop - to vividly recount war-time tales via detailed, life-sized dioramas.

World War I, Sir Peter explains in the exhibition book, has fascinated him since he was a boy. "It was perhaps the last era of chivalry," he writes, "and this was no more evident than in the aerial jousting between young men who'd not long swapped their cavalry mounts for aeroplanes".

His vast collection, which he started at the age of 12, includes original and replica aircraft as well as memorabilia, including letters, uniforms, medals and personal items. [\[More online\]](#)

## Top 10 adventure things you can only do in New Zealand

Peter Munn shared this link to help you with your itinerary planning for your next trip the land of the long white cloud: [\[Link\]](#)



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## Anzac timeline – 100 years ago

Events of the Gallipoli Campaign  
– January 1916

**1 January 1916:** Joseph Murray, Hood Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Helles, wrote: The beginning of the New Year. It looks much the same as the old one and shells instead of bells heralded it in.

**2 January 1916:** Private J Robins, 5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment, was shot at dawn on the beach at Helles for 'Wilfully disobeying an order given by a superior officer in the execution of his duty'.



**3 January 1916:** On 2 and 3 January French forces were evacuated from Helles.

**6 January 1916:** On hearing of the coming evacuation, Joseph Murray, Hood Battalion, Royal Naval Division, at Helles, wrote: I was extremely angry as I had for a long time cherished the hope that I would leave this inhospitable graveyard, defiant and with my head held high. I could not admit, even to myself, that we had been beaten after the sacrifice of so many men ... to desert our fallen comrades and sneak away in the dark without a fight is a revolting thing and the thought of it nauseates me.

**7 January 1916:** Turkish forces at Helles launched a major attack on the remaining 19,000 British troops. The attack was preceded by a furious artillery bombardment but many Turkish soldiers, realising that the British were leaving the peninsula, refused to leave their trenches. The attack failed.

**8 January 1916:** On the night of 8–9 January, 17,000 British soldiers were evacuated from Helles, bringing the three-week evacuation, and the Gallipoli campaign, to a close. In just over a week, 35,000 soldiers, 3,689 horses and mules, 127 guns, 328 vehicles, and 1,600 tons of stores had been taken off Helles. Approximately 508 horses and mules were slaughtered or left behind.

**10 January 1916:** Turkish newspapers reported that 'the whole of the Gallipoli Peninsula is now free from the enemy. They are driven out of Sed-ülbahir (Sed-el - Bahr)'. [More online]

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## Obama cites Aussie example to gun control

Some Americans are looking admiringly at the way the Australian government has handled the difficult issue of private gun control. They see merit in the way it has framed gun laws, which dramatically ended the incidence of mass killings, the situation that is plaguing private lives in the US.

President Barak Obama has gone so far as to say the Australians have established a model the United States should embrace. And campaigning Hillary Clinton has said the Canberra approach "is worth considering."

The stand-fast US National Rifle Association remains adamant in its dismissal of any change in weapon possession. They say the Australian laws "robbed the people of the right to self defence."

The Aussie response, eminently simple, cites one statistic: There have been no mass killings (that is, where there were five or more fatal victims besides the gunman) since the nations tightened its possession laws two decade ago.

Motivation for the change? A shooting in Port Arthur, Tasmania, in 1996, where 35 were massacred. Action was prompt. Standardized tightening of laws was applied in every state. No automatic weapons (or semis); background checking; month-long waiting periods between purchase and possession; a registry; and a buy-back program that took 20% of weaponry about of public circulation (but jacked taxes).

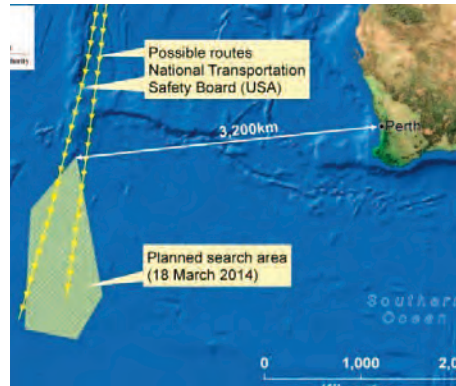
The percentages of gun deaths tell the story. Before 1996 gun death per 100,000 were 2.71. Since then the rate has hovered around 0.82. Killing rate dropped about 33% after 1996 and that trend continues. The trend is matched in suicides

Tasmania's former premier, Tony Rundle, said reaching the 1996 agreement was difficult and warned against revising it. "I told people all over the country, in town hall meetings, we don't want to go down the path that America has traveled," said Mr. Rundle, who is now retired. "Eroding those laws now,

chipping away at the edges, would be a folly."

John Howard, the prime minister who pushed through the measures, agreed. "There should be no relaxation, complacency or compromise," he said in an interview. "That is the view of people all around Australia."

Senator David Leyonhjelm, who supports easing gun controls, said Australia resembled Britain, Canada and New Zealand, where mass shootings are infrequent. "America is an outlier," he said. "We are not like America."



## Australia's search for Malaysian airliner on track

Australian authorities say they are confident new analysis confirms they've likely been searching in the right place for a missing Malaysian airliner.

Media reports say searchers have been combing a 46,000-square-mile part of the Indian Ocean since last year but have yet to turn up any trace of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

So far part of a wing flap is the only confirmed wreckage of Flight 370 to be recovered. It had been washed up on a remote in July on a remote eastern island in the Indian Ocean.

Analysis by an agency of the Defence Department confirmed "the highest probability" the final resting place for the plane is within the current search area, the government said.

Australia's Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss said the new analysis pointed to the aircraft most likely coming to rest in the southern part of the current search area, so searchers would focus on that location and slightly widen the boundaries of the search area there.

The Boeing 777 vanished with 239 people aboard on March 8, 2014, during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing. Authorities are baffled by how and why it disappeared.

The current seabed search more than 1,100 miles southwest of Australia began in

October last year. Ships using side-scan sonar and an underwater drone fitted with a video camera have so far scoured more than 27,000 square miles of rugged terrain.

The search area is based on analysis of scant satellite information that tracked the final hours of Flight 370. [Sources: ABC; Associated Press]

## Tasmania's smoking age to rise?

Tasmania, Australia's island state, is deliberating on legislation that would move the legal smoking age to 21 – or even 25.

The prospect was unveiled as part of the Healthy Tasmania Plan, which the government expects to reduce the state's high smoking rate. Currently it stands second behind the Northern Territory has having the most intense use of the habit, despite being one of the least populated states.

Michael Ferguson has advanced a draft of the proposal, the state's health minister. It is just one element of the state's five-year health plan aimed at making the state the healthiest by 2025.

The National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2013 found 19.3% of Tasmanian adults smoked daily. The national average rate was 13.3 %.

If successful, the move would be a first for Australia, although several US cities have already increased the legal smoking age to 21. Needham in Massachusetts changed the age to 21 in 2005 and New York City followed in 2013. Hawaii will also up the age from January 1, 2016.

Ferguson said, in a statement accompanying the report: "We have unacceptably high rates of smoking.... International evidence supports raising minimum legal smoking age as a means of targeting the most at-risk age category for smoking uptake." Studies show that most smokers take up the habit before the age of 25. Source: TVNZ; The Independent

Murray Burt writes this column to raise sensitivities to the Commonwealth's value and to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world. The Commonwealth name and significance is rarely mentioned in daily news, he says. It should be.

Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; secretary of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada advisory board; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; a senator of the 166th Battery RCA (Kenora) and a director of The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



## Owls

The Owl Foundation lists 16 species that are found across Canada. [Read online]



Manitoba's official Provincial Bird Emblem is the Gray Owl, thanks largely to Bob Nero and Gray'l. With a wingspan up to 5', it is the world's largest owl. The snowy owl is not far behind it at 5' 11". They belong to the family Strigidae. In fact the Strigidae account for 198 of the world's 216 owl species. The other 18 are from the barn owl family, Tytonidae.

Snowys have been in the local news lately. More than normal were picked up weak from starvation during the fall and taken to the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre in Île des Chênes, and others across the prairies. The reason for the spike is thought to be due to a good season (lots of lemmings and therefore lots of owls) in their northern breeding grounds, but lack of hunting skill in some juveniles. Anyway, those that responded well to the TLC now have a second chance to practice harder.

I heard an owl for the first time in our neighborhood one early morning in mid-December. I am yet to see one here, although a couple of years ago I did see the evidence of a nocturnal strike – a neat imprint of the wings in fresh snow in our back lane. They owe their stealth to unique feather modifications: fine hooks on the leading wing edges, more ragged tips on the trailing edges resulting in only micro-turbulence; and generally furrier texture than other predators. Add to this their super night vision and hearing and there is little chance for a wandering vole.

New Zealand has a native owl – the "morepork" (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*), also known as the boobook and an introduced member, the little owl (*Athene noctua*). It is also visited by Australia's barn owl. Otherwise all others are now extinct.

There are 10 listed for Australia. [Link]. According to The Owl Pages [Link], the barn

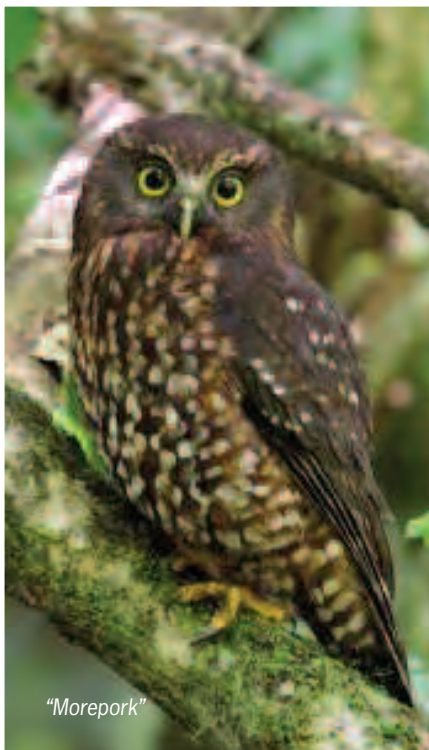


Barn Owl

owl is one of the most wide-spread of all land birds. They occur over the whole of Australia, including Tasmania, and throughout most of Britain and Europe and across many parts of Asia, Africa, and in much of North America. In South America they are found in areas of suitable grassland, as well as on oceanic islands such as the Galapagos.

A wise old owl sat on an oak;  
The more he saw the less he spoke;  
The less he spoke the more he heard;  
Why aren't we like that wise old bird?

— Edward H. Richards



"Morepork"



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## Comonwealth Corner:

### Cyprus refugees at RAF base

The Royal Air Force station in Cyprus not only functions as a base for action against ISIS in Syria, it is also functioning as a freedom station for refugees bound for Europe.

Officials confirm 53 out of 115 migrants who ended up at Akrotiri airbase have been transported to accommodation near capital.

Nearly half of the 115 refugees who arrived by boat at the British military base in Cyprus last month have been taken in by the east Mediterranean country after its foreign minister said it would take on a “substantial number”.

Fifty-three migrants were bussed to a tented reception facility in Kokkinotrimithia near Nicosia,

Also, month-long background checks on the refugees, including 29 children, who arrived at RAF Akrotiri in October, were nearly finished, according to a senior Cypriot official, who asked not to be named.

“Our intention is to take everybody but the people we deem dangerous,” he added, but declined to elaborate on the nature of any threat they might pose. Fewer than 30% of the migrants were likely to be rejected on security grounds, he said.

Most refugees who arrived at UK airbase on Cyprus are allowed to settle on island

Cypriot media reported that unnamed foreign services had requested information from the local security services on at least five migrants suspected of possible connections with terrorist groups.

The migrants have been sheltered under canvas in a fenced off and heavily guarded camp at Dhekelia military base. Most are Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and Syria who accidentally landed at RAF Akrotiri near Limassol in October after paying people smugglers to take them to Greece.

The migrants have dismissed suggestions that their numbers might contain jihadist. Most were people who just wanted a better, safer life, one told The Guardian.

The Cypriot foreign minister, Ioannis Kasoulides, who was in talks with his British counterpart, Philip Hammond, on Thursday, earlier said he expected a “substantial number of asylum seekers will be received by the Republic of Cyprus”—Source: The Guardian; wire services.