

The Southern Yarn

February 2016



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

MARCH

Bowling

Saturday, March 26th, 2016, 7pm
Windsor Park Bowling Lanes
678 Elizabeth Rd.

Cost will be \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for kids. Includes 4 games, prizes and snacks. RSVP to Terry, 204-663-6549.

APRIL

Saturday 23rd

ANZAC Day commemoration

More details next month.

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 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) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.



When our national holidays are acknowledged at local establishments, we like to give them a nod.

Celebrating delicious heritage

Australia Day was celebrated in fine style at Miss Browns Hot Pressed Sandwich & Coffee at 288 William Street downtown.

Owned by Steve (Oz) and Jenny (Can), Miss Browns is famous for their breakfast, Stumptown coffee, house-smoked meats, and fresh cooked local foods. And it's one of few places in town that actually know what you want when you ask for a long black or a flat white.

On Tuesday January 26, the menu that already features some Aussie eats was expanded to include delicious meat pies cooked the Australian way. As one diner remarked, "It was perfect. I felt like I was in Australia."

DUCW members Ian and Catherine Bowering and Jenny Gates were joined for lunch by past member Bradley Tyler West; our Social Coordinator Liz Hydesmith was there later in the afternoon. And all of us had the pies. Yum!


If you're in the area, be sure to drop in and say G'day. And stay tuned for an announcement about a Sunday Brunch there in the near future.



And more treats...

Waitangi Day was celebrated on February 6th together with Australia Day by a whole bunch of aussie members and a couple of kiwis. The potluck meal was up to the usual high standard with many dishes including kiwi fruit in various forms competing for best in category (see photos). Jenny Gates' salad, Peter and Margaret Munn's main chicken and Toby Elson's key lime pie proved favourites, but all entries were exceptional and tasty. Other prizes went to quiz question and two-up game winners. Debbie Griffiths was praised for another of her expertly decorated cakes. The bar was well patronized. So, all-in-all, it was another great event.



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day -

While celebrating our native national days - Australia Day marks the anniversary of the arrival on January 26, 1788 of the First Fleet of British ships at Port Jackson, NSW and raising of the Flag of Great Britain by Governor Phillip at Sydney Cove ; Waitangi Day marks the signing of New Zealand's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 - we had fun with some other quiz questions (see some on p. 3). But there were a couple that stumped everyone. For example, did you know Nancy Wake (a.k.a. "the white mouse") was the Allies most decorated servicewoman of WWII, the Gestapo's most wanted woman and she led a resistance army of 7,000 saboteurs in France? What about Te Rangi Hiroa/Peter Buck? He was the first Maori medical doctor, a pioneering anthropologist, politician, administrator, soldier and sportsperson. Or John Flynn - pastor and founder of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. So Club events can be educational as well as friendly rivalry and great food.

As promised for this edition, we give you a fun insight into how the Yarn happens each month - see "Getting to know ..." on p. 4.

And in "Birds I view" on p.6 you can get to know the humble little sparrow a bit better. Thanks to this month's contributors - Jenny Gates, Peter Munn, Brian Hydesmith, Murray Burt and Judy Powell.

Enjoy!

Try these quiz questions from our Waitangi Day and Australia Day celebration.

(answers on p.4)

1. How many straight lines are there making up the state borders within Australia?
2. Of NZ's North Is and South Is, which is the largest in area?
3. Which is heavier: Cricket ball or Baseball?
4. All Blacks vs Wallabies: most wins?
5. Highest ever score NZ against Australia?
6. Sydney Harbour Bridge vs Auckland Harbour Bridge - which is longer?
7. Where did Governor Phillip get the name Sydney from? Where did Governor Hobson get the name Auckland from?
8. Most southerly: Auckland or Melbourne?
9. Auckland's largest group of foreign-born residents (2013)?
10. Where is "the Beehive" in New Zealand?

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Like everyone, I am enjoying the relatively mild winter we have been experiencing. I heard on the radio today that January was 2C degrees warmer than the long term average in Canada. We hear a lot about "Global Warming", and read and see images of really unusual and dangerous weather patterns in every country in the world. Images of some country suffering through abnormal rainfall, and deadly flooding, are seen almost every week. Now whether any of this can be attributed to the verified overall warming of our planet, I certainly cannot say. Many scientists believe it is happening, and say so. Many Industrialists (and politicians) disagree. But this is the only planet we can reasonably expect to populate for the next one or two hundred years, and even though there are 200 billion galaxies out there, and chances are some of them have conditions close to those on earth, they tend not to be too close to us, or have a functioning airport, so am in favor of whatever we need to do to stabilize our environment.

Regards, Peter



Embracing Diversity

On Friday January 22, Catherine Bowering and Jenny Gates attended the Diversity Forum at City Hall. Under the banner 'Embracing Diversity', the event attracted a number of indigenous speakers and community leaders who shared their hopes for diversity and greater inclusion in this city. "We must do something" was a sentiment shared by members of the public also at the event. The packed house heard personal stories about feelings of injustice and exclusion, which at one point prompted emcee Charles Adler to say, "Don't put your arm on. Put your arm around." Closing out the event, Mayor Brian Bowman declared on behalf of everyone in attendance that "We're going to do our part, but each Winnipegger needs to do their part so we can do a better job as a community."

[Photos by Jenny Gates]



Australia Sale!

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Baby Asha puts Aussie asylum seeker policy in focus

Doctors at Brisbane's Lady Cilento Children's Hospital are refusing to discharge a 12-month-old asylum seeker baby from their care, fearing her return to Nauru.

The hospital has stated that the child will be discharged only once "a suitable home has been identified".

The child, known as Asha, was born in Australia to parents who arrived by boat. She was previously removed to Nauru in June 2015, and has been allowed returned to Australia for medical treatment after she was accidentally burnt by boiling water.

Refugee advocates are asking the government to allow the baby to stay. The government has agreed to give the baby a 72-hour notice period prior to removal, after the Human Rights Law Centre filed emergency proceedings in the High Court.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has stated that the government would not "imperil the health or security of any individual", but remains steadfast that "ruthless" people smugglers not be "given an inch of encouragement". Meanwhile, former immigration minister Scott Morrison has ruled out making exceptions to allow the baby to stay.

The standoff between the doctors and the government raises a number of ethical and legal questions.

So, how might this play out? Read more at [The Conversation online].



Sydney 2030 to be more green, global and connected

Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a set of goals we have set for our city to help make it as green, global and connected as possible by 2030. The plan will transform the way we live, work and play.

Sydney 2030 came to life after we asked residents, visitors, workers and businesses what kind of city they wanted. People told us they wanted a city that cares about the environment, has a strong economy, supports the arts and that connects its people to each other and the rest of the world. Sydney 2030 is now the cornerstone of everything we do. [Read more online]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Maori hangi

The hangi was the most widely used method of cooking by Maori for more than 2000 years. Now saved mainly for special occasions, traditional foods cooked in a hangi include chicken or seafood as well as various vegetables. One of the best places to enjoy this cultural feast is Rotorua, in the central North Island. [Read more online.]

Good news for the sheep

A survey has revealed that New Zealanders who follow a vegetarian diet or eat vegetarian most of the time has increased by 27 per cent since 2011. In research conducted during the 12 months leading up to June 2015, 10.3 per cent of New Zealanders over the age of 14 said they are always or mostly vegetarian.

Whilst vegetarianism is up across all major demographic segments in New Zealand, the strongest growth is amongst men, up 63 per cent from 5.7 per cent of the male population to 9.3 per cent. Growth is also strong amongst 14 - 24 year olds, up 55 per cent from 8.6 per cent of this age group to 13.3 per cent. [Read more online]

What's up? NZ birthrate in 2015

Nearly 4000 more babies were born in New Zealand last year than in 2014, an increase of 7 per cent. It was the first time in four years the number of births has risen rather than fallen.

Statistics New Zealand today released numbers that showed there were just over 61,000 births last year, up 3796 from 2014.

Statistics New Zealand statistical analyst Anne Howard said she was not surprised by the increase as it followed a trend since 1980 where births would decrease for a few years before bouncing back again.

Statistics New Zealand found women aged 30 to 34 years have had the highest fertility rate of all age groups since 2002, and last year nearly 1400 more babies were born to women in this age group than in 2014, in part because there are more women of this age in New Zealand now.

Teenage fertility rates have continued to drop each year since 2008. Last year, the rate for women aged 15 to 19 years was 19 births per 1000 women, down from 33 in 2008.

The numbers of deaths in New Zealand also rose but by a smaller amount. Only 545 more deaths were recorded last year than in 2014. [Read more online.]

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How the Southern Yarn gets to you

Charlie saves news bits through the month, including ones sent in from members.

Towards the end of the month Charlie sends reminders to Vicky at Downunder Travel, Peter Munn and Murray Burt for their regular contributions.

While waiting for these to arrive back in his Inbox, Charlie starts on a draft of the month's new content: update the calendar of events; write something about the previous club event (if no one else has volunteered); add the OZ and NZ news bits; come up with something for the "getting to know..."; and write a "Birds I view" article.

When the draft is complete it goes into a shared Dropbox and Brian is notified.

Brian reformats Charlie's text document into his layout software, adds photos and content where space permits, formats ads and makes electronic proofs.

Brian sends Charlie a message to check it before it goes to the printer. When satisfied, Brian notifies Kendrick Printing that it is in our shared Dropbox and can be produced and also puts it on the Club website.

Charlie then calls Gordon Keatch to let him know it is at the printer. Norm Griffiths and GK prepare the envelopes with address labels.

Gordon picks up the Yarns from the printer and he and Norm stuff the envelopes and mail them. Charlie emails the link to digital version recipients.

It's a volunteer effort each issue, and we're proud of how it turns out. We flex to various factors, impacting the date it arrives in your inbox. We appreciate your readership, feedback and especially your contributions.

Quiz answers from p.2

1. (6); 2. (S = 151,215 ; N = 113,729 sq. kms.); 3. (C = 5.5 – 5.75 oz; B = 5.0 – 5.25 oz); 4. (A = 42; NZ = 106); 5. (51-20 victory at Eden Park on 23 August 2014); 6. (SYD = 1,149 m (3,770 ft); AUCK = 1,020 metres (3,350 ft)); 7. (Thomas Townshend, Lord Sydney); (George Eden, Earl of Auckland); 8. (M = 37°48'49"S 144°57'47"E; A = 36°50'26"S 174°44'24"E); 9. (United Kingdom – 87,057); 10. (Wellington, and it is the name given to the executive wing of the Parliament Building).



Charlie collects all the content for The Yarn and sends it to Brian who does the layout. Once printed, Norm and Gordon get it into the post while the online viewers download their versions from the website.



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Australian PM pitches US on anti-terror policies

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull used his visit to Washington, DC, last month to explain both why Australia is engaged in the battle against Islamic State, and why he refuses to use heated language that casts the battle against terrorism as a broader ideological war. Turnbull has pointed out more than once that his stance is in line with advice from his intelligence agencies.

"We should not be so delicate as to say ISIL and its ilk have 'got nothing to do with Islam'. But equally we should not tag all Moslems or their religion with responsibility for the crimes of a tiny criminal minority. That is precisely what the extremists want us to do," he told an audience at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, one of Washington's leading think tanks.

This position puts Turnbull in line with Barack Obama, who has also refused to describe the war as a clash of civilizations despite ongoing criticism, particularly from Republican presidential candidates.

Turnbull argued that western forces should not lead the ground war against ISIL.

"The threat posed by ISIL has a direct impact on our region...it has used the declaration of a caliphate as a powerful marketing tool which is attracting supporters to travel to the region or to carry out attacks at home..."

The destruction of their self-styled caliphate would help to counter its narrative of inevitable victory and is therefore an important element in securing Australians and Americans at home - and abroad.

Half blind albatross flies free

A one-eyed vulnerable albatross has been released back into the wild after receiving treatment at Wellington Zoo, New Zealand.

The Northern Royal Albatross, or Toroa, arrived at the zoo with a deep injury to its left eye.

"While the bird was in a pretty bad way when it arrived, we've been able to get it fit to return to the wild," the zoo's Nest Te Kohanga Veterinary Practice Manager Amanda Tiffin said.

The eye injury was too severe to recover so it was removed to prevent infection, she said.

"The bird recovered well from eye surgery and has gained weight and strength, so

we're glad to be able to release it back to the wild. The outlook, however, was looking positive for this one-eyed albatross.

"Returning the Toroa back to the wild is an important step for conservation efforts to save the species, which is classified as nationally vulnerable by DoC," Ms Tiffin said.

The northern royal albatrosses breed only in NZ waters and they usually mate for life. They are huge, with a the longest wingspan of any bird—up to 3.4 meters. Toroa usually range throughout the Southern Ocean, and were seen in New Zealand's coastal waters during winter. — *Source; NZ Herald*

Canberra on foreign speculators

The Australian government said it ordered the sale of another eight residential properties bought in breach of foreign ownership laws, in a response to concerns that offshore buyers were driving up house prices.

Australian capital city homes are considered among the most overpriced in the world, and the Federal Government announced penalties for foreigners who breach existing rules that restrict them to buying new homes only.

Treasurer Scott Morrison said last week the forced sale of eight properties takes to 27 the total number of homes the government has declared were bought illegally by foreigners, mostly Chinese nationals.

Nationals from Canada, China, India, Malaysia and the United States bought the estates illegally, the statement said.

—*Source: Mail On Line, Australia ; Reuter*

Australia Googles for more taxes

Commonwealth taxmen are getting a little agitated about how the mighty network corporations seem to avoid paying their tax share into host countries' coffers. So it's not surprising that Australia's Turnbull government is getting pressure to put the squeeze on Google.

If it does, it will follow the model set by the UK action to secure more taxes from laggards. The pressure is being especially spurred on by the advocacy of Independent Senator Nick Xenophon.

"When other countries are pursuing Google aggressively for not paying their fair share of tax, we need to be too," he said. "Before the government talks about increasing the GST or cutting benefits from single parents it needs to have done everything possible to get a fair share of tax from corporations like Google."

A release of tax transparency information last year revealed that Google paid

\$9.2m in Australian tax. That's just 2% of its \$357-million income for the 2013-14 year.

The agreement comes after a multi-year audit by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs looking into whether Google sidestepped tax for more than a decade by allocating profits to Ireland, where its European operations are based. Google and HMRC were not immediately available for comment.

The European Union and national governments, including Australia, have been taking a tougher stand against profit-shielding arrangements used by multinational companies, including Google, Apple and Amazon.. —*Sources: Reuter, Bloomberg*

NZ female MPs ejected over speeches on sexual violence

Women MPs stood up one after another in the NZ parliament last month to reveal their experiences with sexual violence. When they refused to stop and be quiet and wouldn't, they were forced to leave.

Speaker David Carter ruled their personal stories of sexual violence were out of order and turned their microphones off before ejecting them from the chamber.

Many of the opposition Labour and Green MPs who weren't ejected then staged a walkout in protest.

The Speaker said it was too late for them to demand an apology for the unparliamentary remarks Prime Minister John Key made the day prior

"As the victim of a sexual assault, I take personal offence at the Prime Minister's comments, and ask that you require him to withdraw and apologize," Green party co-leader Metiria Tureia said. Green MP Jan Logie and Labour MP Poto Williams then made similar statements, but were asked to sit down.

The Speaker then allowed others to speak "on the assurance that it's a fresh point of order." Instead, they defiantly began with words such as, "As a victim of sexual assault..." before the Speaker interrupted them. Speaker Carter later said: "I now will require any member who takes a point of order along the same lines to immediately leave the chamber." Many did just that.

Enjoy.

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.



House Sparrow



Song Sparrow

Sparrows

House sparrows are native to Europe and were introduced in New Zealand in 1859, and from there reached many of the Pacific islands. They were introduced into Australia in 1863 in Melbourne and are now ubiquitous up and down the eastern states. Any that make it to Western Australia are killed. That's because they are on the "Declared animal pests" list of the WA Department of Agriculture and Food - a compilation of non-native or introduced exotic animals (mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians). Others on the list include blackbirds, mice, foxes, rabbits, feral donkeys, pigs, goats and camels, etc.

In North America the house sparrow got its start in New York City in 1852. As is usually the case, early immigrants brought them over to retain some of the familiarity of their homeland. It never occurred to me to bring a few kookaburras with me to Winnipeg back in '91!

For those interested in tattoos, they obviously make their choice based on some symbolic significance. In the case of tattoos depicting sparrows there are several meanings. Sailors have been known to have them as a gift (above the mandatory anchor) for crossing more than 5000 miles. At one time prisoners would have a small sparrow inked on their hand following release as a reminder of their new freedom (ie, don't screw-up again). Another attribute is their reputed loyalty.

Sparrows are probably the most recognizable birds worldwide. There are over 40 species and many sub-species. They have adapted well to human presence and some will even stick it out with us through our winter months. The common ones are not known for being musical although there are exceptions. The song sparrow has a tune that closely resembles the opening four

notes of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. The fox sparrow is said to be the more melodious, but the simple call of the white-throated sparrow is my favorite of those that visit our backyard.

The "Wee Cock Sparra!"

The comedian Duncan Macrae (1905 -1967) used to recite the "Wee Cock Sparra!" regularly at the TV Hogmanay programmes broadcast in the 1950's and 1960's.

A wee cock sparra sat on a tree
A wee cock sparra sat on a tree
A wee cock sparra sat on a tree
An' it was chirpin' awa' as blithe as could be

Alang came a boy, wi' a bow an' an arra
Alang came a boy, wi' a bow an' an arra
Alang came a boy, wi' a bow an' an arra
An' he said Ill get ya, ya wee cock sparra

The boy with the arra let fly at the sparra
The boy with the arra let fly at the sparra
The boy with the arra let fly at the sparra
And he hit a man, that was hurlin' a barra

The man with the barra came oor with the arra
The man with the barra came oor with the arra
The man with the barra came oor with the arra
And he said, Do you take me for a wee cock sparra??

The man hit the boy, though he wasnae his fatha
The man hit the boy, though he wasnae his fatha
The man hit the boy, though he wasnae his fatha
An' the boy stood and glowered, for he was hurt to the marra
An' all the time, the wee cock sparra
An' all the time, the wee cock sparra
An' all the time, the wee cock sparra
Sat chirpin' awa on the shaft o' the barra



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