

The Southern Yarn

April 2016



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

APRIL

Sunday 10th, 10:00 am
Brunch at Miss Browns
288 William Ave

Join us for a delicious brunch at this new local restaurant, where owners Steve (Aussie) and Jenny (Canadian) offer an exceptional menu. RSVP ASAP so we can make sure there is enough room for you at the table. Contact Jenny at 204-228-9959 or words@jennygates.com .

Sunday 10th, 3:30 pm
Touch Rugby
1350 Grosvenor Ave



Come on out to this inaugural session at River Heights School from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. Big plans for touch rugby in Winnipeg, so be part of the fun and the action right from the start. More info on page 2.

Saturday 23rd, 6 pm
ANZAC Ceremony and Potluck
Scandinavian Cultural Centre,
764 Erin

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service, singing of our national anthems, and a delicious POTLUCK dinner, so remember to 'bring a plate'. This is always a memorable event, so come and be a part of it, and the fun to follow. And don't forget – the Bar will be open.

RSVP

If you let us know you are coming, RSVP to (Liz) social@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-487-0067 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.



Commonwealth Day was celebrated at Government House in Winnipeg, with several DUCW members in attendance. L-R: Jenny Gates, Gordon Keatch, Lt. Gov. Janice Filmon, and Betsy and Murray Burt. Photo: Leon Badali.

Commonwealth Day

The second Monday in March is the annual celebration of Commonwealth Day. And every year, the Province marks the day with an event hosted at Government House.

On Tuesday March 15, members of the Down Under Club of Winnipeg (DUCW) and the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) gathered at Government House to celebrate Commonwealth Day. As president of the Manitoba Branch of the RCS, Murray Burt addressed the gathering at the evening's event, which was hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba Janice Filmon. Members of the DUCW in attendance were Murray and Betsy Burt, Gordon Keatch, Leon Badali and Jenny Gates.

Commonwealth Day is the annual celebration of the Commonwealth of Nations

held on the second Monday in March, and marked by a multi-faith service in Westminster Abbey, normally attended by Queen Elizabeth II as Head of the Commonwealth, with the Commonwealth Secretary-General and Commonwealth High Commissioners in London. The Queen delivers an address to the Commonwealth, broadcast throughout the world. – Wikipedia

We wish all our fellow citizens of the Commonwealth this opportunity to celebrate and recognize our common links and bonds.



Touch Rugby in Winnipeg

Something fun and exciting is coming to Winnipeg, with a flavour that will certainly appeal to Aussies, Kiwis and others in our club and beyond.

Caleb Stick is the founder of Winnipeg Touch Rugby. Kiwi born and raised, Caleb has been living in Winnipeg for six years, and is looking to introduce others to this great sport.

"I am hoping the DUCW will help raise awareness that Touch Rugby is now officially launching in Winnipeg," explained Caleb in a post on our FB page. "It has a governing body as well as partnership with Canada Touch Rugby Inc. Five provinces are in the final stages of launching Canada on both the national and international stage." (continued on page 2)



online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day!

Thank you to Jenny Gates for this edition's front page report on Winnipeg's celebration of Commonwealth Day on March 14. You will also find it on the Club's website [link]. The website has so much more interesting news and more up to date, so hopefully you regularly visit it.

No doubt (and hopefully!) there are some members who still prefer to receive their printed version of the Yarn. Assuming there are, please continue to send in any stories, news and links so all can read and enjoy.

With ANZAC Day close, there is some relevant info included this month; and brotgas and their Canadian cousins are dancing in Birds I View (p. 6).

Thanks to this month's other contributors - Yvonne Tume, Peter Munn, Brian Hyde-smith, Murray Burt AND our advertisers!

Enjoy!



(continued from page 1)

Touch rugby is a minimal contact sport for all skills levels, abilities, and degrees of fitness. The first session will be held from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm beginning on Sunday April 10 at River Heights School at 1350 Grosvenor Ave. All members of the public are invited to participate, and there is no cost to play. The Winnipeg group is open to both men and women, with a minimum age of 18. Newcomers are more than welcome! Simply show up and learn a new sport with minimal rules. For more information, visit their Facebook page [link].

- Touch Rugby Winnipeg is currently in discussions with BC, NWT, Ontario and Montreal Touch Rugby syndicates, which form the core structure for Canada Touch Rugby Inc. (Not affiliated with rugby clubs in Manitoba.)
- Our group goal is to raise funds to send our national team down to Australia for the 2019 world Cup.
- We will be seeking volunteers to referee games, help during trainings, participate in the development of the program, etc.

Touch, also known as Touch Football or Touch Rugby around the world, is a thrilling sport that allows people of all walks of life to achieve their goals; whether that is the thrill of challenging oneself to compete at their best, the thrill of a fast, skilful and exhilarating sport, the thrill of meeting new people or the thrill of being a part of something that can span a lifetime.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Just when I declared summer was here, another 2" of the white stuff landed overnight. But there is heat in the ground, and no doubt the grass will be green in the next few weeks. It has been a winter for the ages, a far cry from my first Winnipeg winter back in 1977. When Margaret was wooing me in Johannesburg, she described the

beauty of a winter's day in Manitoba, snow glistening in the moonlight, trees heavy with white snow, the Northern lights, etc., etc. It painted a pretty picture. However, (as I rarely mention), Margaret never once approached the topic of how really cold a Manitoba winter could be. But the cold winters we once had now are becoming a memory, and for those that enjoy cold weather sports, this has been a great winter.

Enjoy your summer

Regards,
Peter

Above Sydney, Australia on March 11.
Photo: Liz Hydesmith



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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience



Simpson and his donkey

One of the heroes of the Gallipoli campaign is stretcher bearer John Simpson Kirkpatrick who famously used a donkey to carry wounded men back from the front line. Simpson landed at Anzac Cove on April 25, 1915, and was shot and killed by a sniper less than four weeks later.

Professor Stanley, author of the book Simpson's Donkey, says the Simpson story is a very confused one. For one thing, he says, it's probable there was more than one donkey.

Most Australians probably don't realise Simpson was an Englishman who joined up in Australia in an effort to get back home to London to see his mother and sister, to whom he'd been writing for several years while working around the outback of Australia and in various places. (Mr Ekins, author of the book Gallipoli; A Ridge Too Far)

Your chance to decide

Second binding referendum 3-24 March 2016



The votes are in...

... and New Zealanders have decided to retain their traditional flag. The vote was 56.6 per cent to 43.2 per cent for the current national flag, with 2,124,507 people casting votes - a turnout of 67.3 per cent. [link]



Treat(y) yourself to this Museum

Something to include on your must see list in NZ - a new museum dedicated to the Treaty of Waitangi. Formally opened by the Governor-General, Sir Jerry Mateparae, it features taonga, artefacts and around 500 images from private collections and museums around the world, some nearly 200 years old. Among the exhibition's key pieces are a carved self-portrait by Ngapuhi leader Hongi Hika dating to 1814. Hika's trip to England to meet King George IV in 1820 was a key point in early Maori-British relations which paved the way for the Treaty. [link].

Positive role models

A new reality TV show aims at finding the ultimate "Polynesian Warrior". Hosted by comedians Pani and Pani, Game of Bros launched in late March. Contestants take on a host of physical challenges in the seven-part series. Filming was completed in the Auckland region late last year [link].



100 years ago ...

Anzac Day occurs on 25 April. It commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders killed in war and also honours returned servicemen and women.

The date itself marks the anniversary of the landing of New Zealand and Australian soldiers - the Anzacs - on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915. The aim was to capture the Dardanelles, the gateway to the Bosphorus and the Black Sea. At the end of the campaign, Gallipoli was still held by its Turkish defenders.

Thousands lost their lives in the Gallipoli campaign: 87,000 Turks, 44,000 men from France and the British Empire, including 8500 Australians. To this day, Australia also marks the events of 25 April. Among the dead were 2779 New Zealanders, about a sixth of those who served on Gallipoli.

Anzac Day was first marked in 1916. The day has gone through many changes since then. The ceremonies that are held at war memorials up and down New Zealand, or in places overseas where New Zealanders gather, remain rich in tradition and ritual befitting a military funeral [link].

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In 1961 a new Australian national anthem was composed by Jack O'Hagan. This is the anthem Yvonne Tume sang in school. Some Aussies may remember it:

God Bless Australia

(sung to the tune of Waltzing Matilda)

Here in this God-given land
of ours Australia,
This proud possession,
our own piece of earth,
That was built by our fathers
who pioneered our heritage,
Here in Australia,
the land of our birth.

God bless Australia,
our land Australia,
Home of the ANZACs,
the strong and the free,
It's our homeland, our own land,
to cherish for eternity,
God bless Australia,
the land of the free.

Here in Australia
we treasure love and liberty,
Our way of life,
all for one, one for all,
We're a peace-loving race,
but should danger
ever threaten us,
Let the world know
we will answer the call.

God bless Australia,
our land Australia,
Home of the ANZACs,
the strong and the free,
It's our homeland, our own land,
to cherish for eternity,
God bless Australia,
the land of the free.



Newcastle Beach, NSW, March 2016.
Photo: Liz Hydesmith



VOTE

Provincial election day is Tuesday, April 19

Election day voting

Voting places are open from 7 am to 8 pm.

Advance voting – Vote anywhere

Advance voting will be held Saturday, April 9 to Saturday, April 16, from 8 am to 8 pm (noon to 6 pm on Sunday). You can vote at any advance location in the province. To find locations, visit our website or download our mobile app.

Be sure to bring government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, or two other documents with your name.

Am I eligible to vote?

If on election day you are a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older, and a resident of Manitoba for at least six months, you can vote.

For more information:

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Long may the oldie (continue to) fly

Kiwi referendum voters will stick with the old Union Jack-Southern Cross flag. The Prime Minister was a bit disappointed with the result, but most Kiwis voting on the flag choices offered, the old or new, stuck with the traditional oldie when the voted was called last month.

It took 10 months and \$26-million but 1,200,000 voted for no change and 915,000 voters were disappointed. PM John Key, said he'll back the result, and encouraged New Zealanders to get out there and fly their (Union Jack) flag, affirmed by the knowledge that it has the support of the majority of voters.

He refuted suggestion that the process had been a waste of time and money, or that he'd approach it differently with the benefit of hindsight.

Both Key and the deputy prime minister Bill English, the minister responsible for the flag consideration project, said the process was valuable in that it prompted a debate about nationhood.

While supporters of change are optimistic that New Zealand will get a new design one day, Key has said it will probably be tied to the issue of a republic – which he himself is not in favour of. Future PMs, however, may be more open to it.

Human rights on agenda in Oz-Iranian economic talks

As Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif arrived in Canberra last month for talks to increase economic ties, his Australian counterpart Julie Bishop hopes to finalize an agreement to return thousands of failed Iranian asylum seekers back home. This guaranteed human rights a place on the agenda.

Last year the use of the death penalty in Iran soared to its highest level in a decade. The UN special rapporteur on Iran says Iran executed between 996 and 1,054 people in 2015, mostly for drug offenses. Children feature on the long list of those executed. Amnesty International confirmed the execution of four children offenders last year.

Iranian authorities continue to clamp down on free speech and peaceful dissent. Revolutionary courts have handed down harsh sentences against social media users, including several death sentences. People affiliated with banned opposition parties, labor unions, and student groups are routine-

ly prosecuted. Ethnic and religious minorities are persecuted and women face widespread discrimination. And Iran continues to imprison dozens of activists and human rights defenders for their peaceful or professional activities.

Iran knows, as most in foreign service officers do, that Australia has a dismal track record on refugee rights. This includes failing to respect international standards for asylum seekers and refugees, abuses in its controversial offshore processing system, and outsourcing its refugee obligations to other countries. These failures have exacted a heavy human toll.

Some recognized refugees sent to Manus Island in Papua New Guinea say Australian officials have offered them A\$10,000 (US\$7,500) to return home. Yet rather than enticing refugees to return to a country where they would be in danger, the government should be offering people an opportunity to move on with their lives in safety and certainty in Australia or elsewhere, not leaving them to languish in limbo on remote Pacific islands.

In the rush to welcome Tehran in from the cold to talk trade, Australia cannot afford to trample on the rights of vulnerable Iranians. – Source: Human Rights Watch

NZ politicians hint intel shake-up

New Zealand's spy agencies are in line for a shakeup after a top level review, the results of which will likely be submitted to Parliament for debate.

Prime Minister John Key confirmed the review had been handed to parliament's intelligence and security committee. Its recommendations are being weighed in secret before making the unclassified report public.

The review, by former Deputy Prime Minister Sir Michael Cullen and lawyer Dame Patsy Reddy, was tasked with assessing whether the current spying laws for the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) and Security Intelligence Service (SIS) strike the right balance between ensuring national security and protecting the public's rights. Some of the legislation dates back to 1969.

Key said reform was likely, but made it clear the Government would prefer not to embark on any radical change without cross-party backing. The reviewers had been asked to craft recommendations that were likely to find political consensus.

"It's the Government's intention to try and reach bipartisan support. I'm very reluctant to move forward if we can't get Labour's support on the legislation," Key said.

A closer relationship between GCSB and

SIS is one likely outcome of the review after Key acknowledged there were areas where Cullen and Reddy saw more scope for GCSB and SIS to work together.

KiwiMeter

What kind of Kiwi are you?

KiwiMeter survey flawed

KiwiMeter was launched in March with TVNZ calling it "the biggest survey of national identity ever undertaken in New Zealand".

Since then KiwiMeter has attracted criticism from the Human Rights Commission and a number of opposition politicians. Te Tai Tokerau MP Kelvin Davis went as far as saying a question which asked whether Māori should not have special treatment was designed to incite racial intolerance and should be withdrawn.

KiwiMeter is flawed on far too many levels beginning with the name 'KiwiMeter'.

Naming is important. In any project or poll or survey, naming gives the participants an idea of what is being explored. The KiwiMeter tells us it explores the question: 'What kind of Kiwi are you?'.

The assumption being that all in Aotearoa consider themselves to be 'Kiwi'. So what happens for those that do not identify as 'Kiwi'? "I have always been perplexed by the idea that identification with a nocturnal, bug eating bird that does not fly is how many chose to define us all. This is one indicator of the kinds of assumptions that underpin the design of this poll," Davis said.

To be Māori, to not identify as Kiwi is from the beginning positioned as problematic.

So I am not surprised that the debate around the framing of questions as leading and racist has become a focus of discussion. Questions such as: "Māori should not receive any special treatment" have been accused as being racist. Is it a racist frame? Yes it is."

But it is not only the framing of questions that can be problematic, it is also how the responses are analyzed. All good researchers know that if you ask the wrong question, you get the wrong answer and the analysis and outcomes will be flawed.

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. Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



brolga
(*Grus rubicunda*)



whooping crane
(*Grus americana*)

Cranes

A familiar crane in Australia is the **brolga** – well known for its elaborate mating dance ritual. The brolga is the official bird emblem of Queensland and appears on its coat of arms where it represents the indigenous population. Fully-grown, the brolga can reach a height of 0.7 to 1.3 metres (2 ft 4 in to 4 ft 3 in) and has a wingspan of 1.7 to 2.4 metres (5 ft 7 in to 7 ft 10 in). This makes them comparable to the **sandhill cranes** (*Grus canadensis*) that are equally common here in Canada.

Much less common is North America's other member of the family and tallest bird, the **whooping crane** (*Grus americana*).

There are possibly less than only 500 of these in the wild. Fortunately there are a couple of hundred in captivity, to help restore their numbers. We made a road trip several years back to Last Mountain Lake Bird Sanctuary, in SK, hoping to see these rare birds on their annual migration and after hearing reports some had been seen. Unfortunately we missed them but did see plenty of sandhill cranes.

Other enthusiasts from Cape Breton had better luck near the Grasslands National Park [link].

Cranes mostly follow Health Canada's guide to healthy eating, although they're a bit ahead of us with their uptake of insects. They also go for grains, berries, small mammals, snails, reptiles and amphibians.

Cranes of course feature in North American Native folklore – to the Anishinabe tribes they represent oratory skill and leadership. There is an Australian Aboriginal Dream-time story about how brolga started as a dancing girl. [link] In fact, their early name was Native Companion. Here is a poem by John Shaw Neilson:

Native Companions Dancing

On the blue plains in wintry days
The stately birds move in the dance.
Keen eyes have they, and quaint old ways
On the blue plains in wintry days.
The Wind, their unseen Piper, plays,
They strut, salute, retreat, advance;
On the blue plains, in wintry days,
These stately birds move in the dance
[link]



image: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/432345632955279676/>



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CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.
Station Main, PO Box 1655,
Winnipeg Manitoba Canada R3C 2Z6
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