

The Southern Yarn

May 2016



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

MAY

Monday May 30, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Australian High Commission event

"Introduction to Australian Government Services"
First Secretary and Consul Melissa Stenfors
Venue TBA. All are welcome to attend! For more info, email info@downunderclub.mb.ca – put "AHC Visit" in subject line. [Also see "When the AHC comes to town" on page 3.]

MAY/JUNE

Tuesday May 31 and Wednesday June 1, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Passport Interviews and Notarial Services

By appointment only! Venue TBA
For more info, email info@downunderclub.mb.ca – put "AHC Visit" in subject line. [Also see "When the AHC comes to town" on page 3.]

SUNDAYS

Touch Rugby, 3:30 - 5:30pm
River Heights School,
1350 Grosvenor Ave

Weekly training and games. Come for a run, learn something new and better yourself while having fun. Newcomers always welcome! For more information, visit www.facebook.com/Winnipeg-Touch-Rugby-1586871974967332.

JULY

Pool Party at Jason & Lynley's
57 D'Arcy Drive (date t.b.a.)

AUGUST

Golf Tournament (date t.b.a.)

SEPTEMBER

Retro Club night (date t.b.a.)

RSVP

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.



ANZAC service

Club members were joined this year by Gurcan Kocdag, Hon. Consul General for Turkey, and other guests from the Turkish community.

The ceremony was followed by a potluck meal including another of Debbie Griffiths' excellent cakes. Peter Debenham ably managed the bar. We even organized a group photo with DUCW members and all our guests.



online



find us on facebook or the web

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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,

Last month we commemorated ANZAC Day – actually the 100th anniversary of the first commemoration and the 101st of the Gallipoli Campaign.

This month, I was reminded by my brother, we should again remember the sacrifices made in another conflict – one that took place nearer to “home” – the Battle of the Coral Sea. It was contested during May 4 – 8, 1942, between the Imperial Japanese Navy and naval and air forces from the United States and Australia. You can watch a new documentary about it online [link].

So while we watch from the sidelines with interest, concern, amusement and any other emotion you may be experiencing as our neighbours to the south work their way through their presidential election process, let us not forget the price of our freedom to do so.

This month we've included a small sample of photos from Club photographers (page 4) who participated in our photo contest. All images will be printed in next month's issue. A whole new set of DUCW cards will be produced using these images.

And ducks are the subject of Birds I View on p.6.

Thanks to this month's other contributors – Jenny Gates, Peter Munn, Liz and Brian Hydesmith, Murray Burt AND our advertisers!

Enjoy!

Touch Rugby in Winnipeg

Touch rugby is a minimal contact sport for all skill levels, abilities, and degrees of fitness. Join us every Sunday from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm 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].

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



The first game of golf for the year is now under my belt, and I didn't disappoint myself. The weather was great, the company was great, and I ended up on the wrong side of 100. But it was nice to feel a sunburn after a game in April in Manitoba.

Speaking of golf, we will be running our very low key Down Under golf tournament later in the summer, so watch for notices in *The Yarn*, or on the DUCW website.

The ANZAC Day service was well attended, and appreciated by those in attendance. We all enjoyed the potluck supper served

afterward. The club has some great cooks.

Jenny Gates has for a long time been working with both the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions in Ottawa with the aim of gaining new flags for the club's use on special occasions. With government budgets on a shoestring, it has literally taken years, but good old dogged determination has finally paid off in flags being obtained from each High Commission. The flag from the Australian government is also exactly what was sought, a wool bunting flag of the finest quality. So thank you Jenny, we appreciate your effort.

Enjoy your summer,

Regards,
Peter

New flags!

Peter and Jenny hold the newly provided replacement national flags at our ANZAC ceremony gathering. The previous ones have done many years of service and we look forward to showing off the new ones soon.



Australia & NZ Fare Sale!

Add-on flights are available from all major cities.

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When the AHC comes to town

First Secretary and Consul Melissa Sten-fors from the Australian High Commission in Ottawa is coming to Winnipeg to conduct interviews for Aussies who require a new passport, first passport, or renewed passport (May 31 and June 1). She will also provide notarial services and present an information evening (May 30) about the provision of Australian Government services. In lieu of you having to go to either Vancouver or Ottawa for passport issues, they are coming to us. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity. More information will be emailed to Club members. Others who want to stay informed about this event should email info@downunderclub.mb.ca - put "AHC Visit" in subject line.



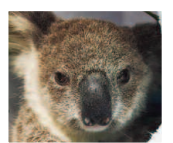
Australians save African rhinos

With poachers decimating the African rhinoceros population to satisfy thoughtless greed in China and Vietnam, the Australian Rhino Project is underway.

Ray Dearlove decided Australia, as a nation, could do something because it is the ideal place to provide a strategic safety net for the rhino population. [Link1] [Link2]

Baby koala saved

Baby koala Bob was only eight-months-old when he was scooped up in



the talons of a hungry wedge-tailed eagle and taken for a flight.

But the furry 500-gram fellow struggled and fell to the ground, where he was lucky to be spotted by two early-morning walkers who sought help at The University of Queensland Small Animal Hospital, at the School of Veterinary Science. [Link]

Not "our" Charlie

Charlie's Cookies snack boxes are now being offered on selected domestic Qantas flights.



The box comprises BlackJack Aged Cheddar Cheese, Tucker's Natural Rosemary Lavosh, Beerenberg Caramelised Onion Dip and a dip-pack of Charlie's Gingerbread Heart Biscuits.

Charlie's Cookies says the package is a feature of its own "Proud to call Australia home" campaign and 5 cents from every box sold will be donated to the Bangarra Indigenous Dance Theatre. As the campaign progresses Charlie's will partner with and donate profits to other Australian organisations and initiatives.

Charlie's Cookies "Proud to Call Australia Home" snack boxes are a complimentary offering on selected domestic Qantas flights. [Link]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

A taste of NZ

For our Kiwi members, Ethan Gordon wants to introduce you to a new monthly subscription box catering for those Kiwi expats across the world who miss that taste of home. Wanna know more? Check out their website - kiwifoodbox.com

Possible sighting of Captain Cook's Endeavour

The NZ Herald, May 2, reports: "The ship used by Captain James Cook during his voyage to New Zealand may have been found on



the bottom of the ocean floor in a US harbour.

The Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project (RIMAP) believes it may have discovered the HMS *Endeavour* in Newport Harbour, Rhode Island.

The ship, one of the most famous in naval history, was used by Captain Cook on his first voyage of discovery to Australia and New Zealand from 1769 to 1771.

The last sighting of the *Endeavour* was about 1778 when it was thought to have been sold and its name changed to Lord Sandwich, the Daily Mail reported.

The ship was then used to transport British soldiers during the American revolution.

Now, more than 230 years after it was sold, the ship may have been discovered along with 13 others during a massive archaeological investigation.

In a statement obtained by the *Daily Mail*, RIMAP said they were 80 to 100 per cent sure the remains they had found belonged to the *Endeavour*.

"RIMAP has mapped nine archaeological sites of the 13 ships that were scuttled in Newport Harbour in 1778 during the American Revolution.

"One group of five ships included the Lord Sandwich transport, formerly Captain James Cook's *Endeavour*."

In 1998, historical documents hinting at the location of the ship were found by a scientist in a shipping archive.

The documents revealed the ship had been renamed and scuttled in the US, the *Daily Mail* reported.

Then in 2014, RIMAP received backing from the Australian National Maritime Museum to investigate the theory further." - NZ Herald

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Our Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the DUCW photo contest. These photos have already been printed up as photo cards, which will be used for special occasions over the next few years. Some will also be put up on our website for more people to enjoy.

Prior to the contest, we used cards from



past member Shannon Mann, but when they were all gone, we decided to give others the opportunity to submit their photos in a variety of categories.

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos, and congratulations to the winners!



Census 2016

It Benefits Us All.



There's still time. Complete your census today.

For every person ultimately missed in the 2016 Census, Manitoba loses \$46,000 in federal transfer payments over the next five years. This money, as well as information from the Census, is used to make important decisions about your community's roads, hospitals, schools and social services.

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Australian MP sets river afire, blames fracking

An Australian MP blames seeping methane from a nearby fracking site allowing him to set Queensland's Condamine River on fire. Officialdom say it's natural.

Jeremy Buckingham, a Greens party MP for New South Wales, said it was "unbelievable" to see a river on fire. "The most incredible thing A tragedy in the Murray-Darling Basin," he said.

The Murray-Darling Basin is the largest river system in southeastern Australia and a significant source of fresh water for drinking and agriculture. Buckingham said when he lit it flames burned for more than an hour. He believes the nearby coal seam gas (CSG) operations were to blame. "This area has been drilled with thousands of CSG wells and fracked. This river for kilometres is bubbling with gas and now it's on fire," he said.

"This is the future of Australia and the Murray-Darling Basin if we do not stop the frackers who wants to spread across all states and territories ... this is utterly unacceptable."

The Greens are campaigning to ban fracking in Australia.

There have been reports of methane seeps in the Condamine River – located near Chinchilla in southwest Queensland – since 2012, triggering a series of investigations.

A report by Norwest Corp, a scientific analysis firm, outlined several scenarios that could be contributing to the bubbling in the river. These included natural events such as drought and the recharging of aquifers after floods. – Sources: ABC 216; CBC

Human rights high on agenda in Canberra-Tehran talks

Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif began talks in Canberra last month. The objective: to increase economic ties. His Australian counterpart Julie Bishop hopes to get on the agenda an agreement to repatriate thousands of failed Iranian asylum seekers.

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 1054 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.

Antarctic melt crisis: 12-foot rise in sea level

For half a century, climate scientists have seen the West Antarctic ice sheet, a remnant of the last ice age, as a sword of Damocles hanging over human civilization.

The great ice sheet, larger than Mexico, is thought to be potentially vulnerable to disintegration from a relatively small amount of global warming, and capable of raising the sea level by 12 feet or more should it break up. But researchers long assumed the worst effects would take hundreds – if not thousands – of years to occur.

Now, new research suggests the disaster scenario could play out much sooner.

Continued high emissions of heat-trapping gases could launch a disintegration of the ice sheet within decades, according to a study published last month, heaving enough water into the ocean to raise the sea level as much as three feet by the end of this century.

With ice melting in other regions, too, the total rise of the sea could reach five or six feet by 2100, the researchers found. That is roughly twice the increase reported as a plausible worst-case scenario by a United Nations panel just three years ago, and so high it would likely provoke a profound crisis within the lifetimes of children being born. – Source: Justin Gillis excerpt

PNG Court: Oz detention on Manus is illegal

Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court has ruled it's illegal for asylum seekers to be kept in detention on Manus Island, but Immigration Minister Peter Dutton says they won't be coming to Australia.

Mr. Dutton says about 900 men being held at the Manus Island detention centre will not be brought to Australia after Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court ruled their detention was illegal.

The decision strikes one of the central pillars of the Turnbull government's border protection regime, just weeks out from an

election campaign during which the government is expected to heavily "spruik" its asylum seeker record.

In a statement last week, Mr Dutton said the legal proceedings did not alter Australia's border protection policies, which "remain unchanged". – Source: ABC news



French, not Japan, wins Australia submarine contest

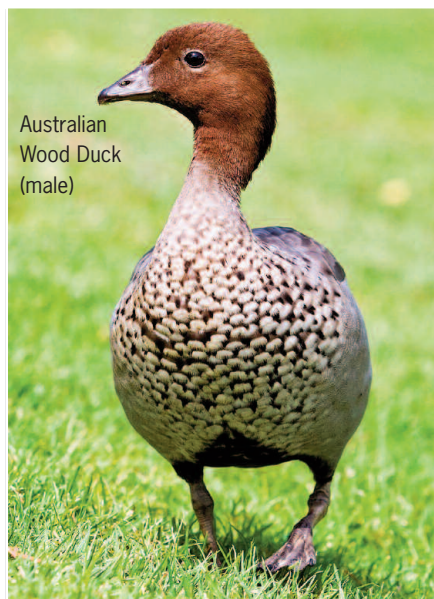
The French have won Australia's keenly-watched, US\$38.5-billion submarine program to replace six Collins-class submarines currently in service with the Royal Australian Navy.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Defense Minister Marise Payne announced last week that the French DCNS Shortfin Barracuda offering has beaten off competition from Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems and a unofficially touted consortium led by Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. This followed what Payne called a "rigorous" and "methodical" competitive evaluation process.

The 12 boats will be designed and built with French assistance by Australia's ASC at its South Australia shipyard. The company had built the Collins-class submarines for the RAN, and is currently contracted to carry out sustainment of the fleet.

PM Turnbull has said that the selection team had been "unequivocal" in its assessment that the DCNS offering was closest to Australian range and endurance requirements, as well as possessing superior sensor performance and stealth characteristics and also included "cost, schedule, program execution, through-life support and Australian industry involvement." – Source: The Diplomat.

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.



Australian
Wood Duck
(male)



Of ducks, dux and Donald

There's a family connection - my brother was Dux at our high school; and I learned how to talk like (Disney's) Donald.

I decided on ducks this month because Keith Vidal suggested them during a chat over the potluck dinner after our ANZAC commemoration. Also because the faithful pair of Mallards that show up every spring in the neighbour's back yard arrived again on cue. Keith and Patricia also have ones that return every year to the banks of the Red River behind their place.

There are dabbling ducks and diving ducks. The mergansers, for example, have a heavier body that allows them to dive deep and catch large fish. The dabblers are more likely to feed on waterweeds, insect larvae and frogs. Bread is not good for their health.

Australia has many duck species - some native; and some introduced, like the mallard. The wood duck nests in tree cavities or in nest boxes above or near water. [Link].

In New Zealand, the wood duck became extinct in the late 1800s. However, the paradise shelduck is unlikely to suffer the same fate. While most native species have suffered from urban sprawl and other human activities, putakitaki / putangitangi has benefited. They also have the unusual distinction (in the feathered world) of the female being more eye-catching than the male.

Ducks (1919)

F.W. Harvey [link]

From troubles of the world
I turn to ducks,
Beautiful comical things
Sleeping or curled
Their heads beneath white wings
By water cool,
Or finding curious things
To eat in various mucks
Beneath the pool,
Tails uppermost, or waddling
Sailor-like on the shores
Of ponds, or paddling
- Left! Right! - with fanlike feet
Which are for steady oars
When they (white galleys) float
Each bird a boat
Rippling at will the sweet
Wide waterway...
When night is fallen you creep
Upstairs, but drakes and dillies
Nest with pale water-stars,
Moonbeams and shadow bars,
And water-lilies:
Fearful too much to sleep
Since they've no locks
To click against the teeth
Of weasel and fox.
And warm beneath
Are eggs of cloudy green
Whence hungry rats and lean
Would stealthily suck
New life, but for the mien
The bold ferocious mien
Of the mother-duck.



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Malaysia child marriage ban challenged

A Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party member of parliament said he opposes banning child marriages because such a move would lead girls to seek out casual sex.

Nik Mazian Nik Mohamad made the assertions as the parliament debated the Child (Amendment) Bill 2015.

“Nowadays, kids under the age of 16 are already having sex and already have open sexual relationships,” he claimed. “If we prevent them from getting married, these urges are still there, so they will be exposed to have sex freely and outside of marriage,”

Teo Nie Ching, member of the Democratic Action Party, disagreed.

“Like in Sabah, in KK (Kota Kinabalu), a 14-year-old married her rapist that was over the age of 40. After that the rapist was convicted in court,” she said. “But what happens to the child? Her husband is sent to jail over a crime, but she married the man who raped her. That’s why we need amendments to protect the rights of the child.”

Khairuddin Aman Razali, a member of the PAS, agreed with Nik Mazian. He said the ban “would only lead to ‘zina’ (adultery).” He believes that child marriage “is less detrimental than adultery.”

Questioning Malaysia’s signing the UN Human Rights Council’s resolution to end child marriage, he asked if the 1.6 billion Muslim worldwide are so stupid in handling the issue of underage marriage?

“Or, the questions was purposely raised to humiliate us?” he asked.

–Source: Mary Chastain, Breitbart News Network; Singapore Today

Vanuatu women demonstrate to end violence against women.

A Stop Violence Against Women parade in Port Vila drew women from businesses, churches, NGOs, and the formal employment sector to demonstrate their concerns, and quest for more government action.

They presented petitions to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Alfred Maoh, and the Minister of Justice and Social Welfare, Ronald Warsal, at Vanuatu’s Parliamentary Complex.

The peaceful protest comes after the recent abduction and abuse of local tourism manager, Florence Lengkon, and coincides with the first sitting of the country’s new Parliament.

It was organized by a committee led by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Leimara Malachai, and Jenny Viregagaru Ligo, the president of the Women Against Crime and Corruption.

– Source: Vanuatu Daily Post