

The Southern Yarn

January 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

FEBRUARY

Australia Day/Waitangi Day
Saturday 3rd February 2018, 6 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre

764 Erin St, Winnipeg

This is a FREE fun social event where we celebrate our respective national days and enjoy great food prepared by some of the finest chefs in Winnipeg – YOU! The annual bake-off contest theme this year is **SOUP**. So have a go! Or bring buns or another dish or dessert. Soups may be brought in crockpots, or there is some stovetop space for pots. There will also be a fun trivia quiz on New Zealand and Australia; a game of two-up; and more prizes! And the bar will be open...

MARCH

Saturday 17th March 2018, 2 pm
at the High Tea Bakery

2103 Portage Ave, Winnipeg

A casual social get-together. It happens to be St Patrick's Day, so you might decide to order Green tea.

APRIL

ANZAC Day
Saturday 28th April 2018, 5 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre

764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service, singing of our national anthems, followed by a delicious POTLUCK dinner. This is always a memorable event, so come and be a part of it, and the fun to follow. We may even have a game of darts! And don't forget – the Bar will be open

If you'd like to suggest a new social event, we're happy to help you plan it for the Club!



Cronulla Beach, NSW, Australia. Photo: Jenny Gates.

Join us to celebrate Australia Day and Waitangi Day

The last time I celebrated Australia Day in Australia was 23 years ago. The fact it's also my brother Tony's birthday makes it even more difficult to regularly be away on January 26.

I did attempt to make up for that this year by spending November and half of December with family and friends in Oz, and what a fabulous time that was.

I saw my mum, who struggles with dementia and lives in a seniors' care home. I celebrated my niece Nicola's 21st birthday. I caught up with other family and friends. I sampled all sorts of treats and eats – fish and chips by the beach, lamb cooked on the barbie, chocolate malted milkshakes, Arnott's biscuits, and assorted lollies and chocolate.

I saw familiar sights – Sydney Harbour, Cronulla Beach, the south coast, and the Aussie bush – and met a few of the locals – koalas, kangaroos, kookaburras, galahs and cockatoos.

Sometimes I picked up souvenirs and took photos, and other times I sat quietly and enjoyed the familiar sounds and smells of the great southern land.

It's a wonderful thing to go home for a while, which makes the DUCW celebration of



Awaroa Beach, NZ.

Photo: Courtesy Wilsons Abel Tasman

Australia Day and Waitangi Day more poignant and special – an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate and remember our history and culture with family and friends here, even though we are a long way from our home countries.

If you haven't had the opportunity of late to celebrate your national day in Australia or New Zealand, then join us on Saturday February 3 for the next best thing. All details are in the calendar on this page and on the website, but remember there is a bake-off – the theme is soup – and it's also a potluck, so bring enough for you and a bit extra for our special guests.

And when I see you there, I'll tell you about the other wonderful souvenirs I brought back from down under.

Jenny Gates

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



I am thankful for close relatives, past and present, who have made the time and effort to research and document our family tree. In doing so they help to remind us of our heritage and keep us mindful of our forebears. Through a cousin who is quite immersed in Scottish clan preservation and promotion, I learn that my hereditary chief is Sir Malcolm MacGregor, the current Chair of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs; also, that there is a "Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada" (CASSOC) whose newsletter is An Drochaid ("The Bridge"). Similarly, there is the Scottish Australian Heritage Association and Scottish Clans in New Zealand. Just thought you might find this interesting, since who doesn't have a strand or two of Scottish DNA?

Speaking of chiefs, New Zealand's had a say in that colony's first flag back in 1834, see p.3 – probably fairly unique for the times. Speaking of unique, New Zealand also was the first self-governing country to grant all women the right to vote – see "100+ years ago ...", p.2.

Speaking of 100+years ago, that column could have equally been devoted to the story of Frank Hurley. Instead, you will find his amazing achievement in "Getting to know .." on p. 4. And our bird for the month is the heron – p.6.

Big thanks to Jenny, Peter, Murray, Ed, Bruce, Malcolm and our advertisers.

Australian to help MPI

Australian Benjamin Graham will become MPI's new president and CEO on February 1. He brings nearly 15 years of senior leadership to his new role, and was most recently head of risk for QBE Insurance Asia Pacific, headquartered in Hong Kong. He has a master's degree in risk management from Monash University in Australia and an undergraduate degree in political science from the University of New South Wales. We look forward to meeting Benjamin at some point in the future, and extend to him a warm welcome to our part of the world.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Welcome to 2018!

To all our members and friends, may this year bring joy, and health, and happiness. Our family once again really enjoyed our Christmas celebrations, though they have been changing over the past few years as our kiddings develop their own celebrations with Margaret and I, and

their partner's families' celebrations. As an extra wrinkle this year, our younger son Tyler and his partner Hannah spent Christmas in Merimbula, NSW with my brother and his family, after spending time in Japan and NZ on an extended holiday. To let you know, Santa was kind to me this year, so obviously he never received the good/not good email. I hope your Christmas was merry, and that you had a great welcoming to the New Year. We hope to see everyone at the Australia Day/Waitangi Day celebration, please don't miss it.
- Peter

100+ years ago



Source:

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/page/women-vote-first-general-election>

Women win the right to vote - 19 September 1893

When the governor, Lord Glasgow, signed a new Electoral Act into law, New Zealand became the first self-governing country in the world to grant all women the right to vote in parliamentary elections. As women in most other democracies – including Britain and the United States – did not win the right to vote until after the First World War, New Zealand's world leadership in women's suffrage became a central part of our image as a trailblazing 'social laboratory'. The passage of the Act was the culmination of years of agitation by the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and other organizations. As part of this campaign, a series of massive petitions were presented to Parliament; those gathered in 1893 were together signed by almost a quarter of the adult female population of New. Read more: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/womens-suffrage-day>

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Top Australian Googles in 2017

The West Australian [12 Dec. 2017] Australia has been revealed as a nation of slime-makers in Google's annual run-down of the most popular online searches.

Queries about making slime topped the top-trending Google searches starting with "how to" in 2017. Fidget spinners came in behind slime on the "how to" list, and was the sixth-highest trending "what is" search.

Aussies ultimately stayed true to their reputation for loving sport, however, with the Australian Open topping the overall list of terms that had the greatest spike in traffic for a sustained period in 2017. The Melbourne Cup came second, followed by the Wimbledon tennis tournament. [Read more online]



Quolls coming to Booderee

The Canberra Times reported, 31 Dec 2017: Plans are ramping up to reintroduce 100 eastern quolls to Booderee National Park in Jervis Bay over the next four years.

The first release will take place in autumn 2018, with 20 quolls being transported from Tasmania to the wilds of the NSW south coast for reintroduction to the mainland. A crowdfunding campaign has been set up to help raise \$40,000 to fund the equipment and monitoring. Funds were donated for 13 trackers, but seven more are needed to track the pioneer population. [Read more online].



"Fatbergs" under Brisbane

Brisbane Times [20 Dec 2017] A camera placed into the sewer network showed sizeable fatbergs covering the pipes, obstructing the flow of water.

QUU spokeswoman Michelle Cull said the festive season was more like fatberg season as people washed the fats from their Christmas meals of baked ham and roast meats straight down the sink.

"It might seem harmless and convenient, but hot cooking fat cools while travelling through the sewers and solidifies into a smelly mass," she said.

"Fatbergs are a major cause of blockages in our pipes, but they can also cause blockages in household plumbing, potentially costing hundreds of dollars to repair. [Read more online]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Best (Chocolate) in Class

Australian Food news, [18 Dec 2017] A New Zealand chocolate producer has won numerous medals from two international chocolate awards.

Hogarth Craft Chocolate has taken home a Gold medal from the 2017 Academy of Chocolate Awards in the Flavoured Dark Chocolate Bar category for its Gianduia and Dark Hazlenut chocolate. [Read more online]



Haere Mai Ki and/or Rotorua

On August 11 Rotorua officially became the first bilingual city in Aotearoa.

More than 50 people were welcomed into the Rotorua Lakes Council chamber to see the unveiling of the plaque which declared Rotorua bilingual. Read more online

Who knew?

When the islands of New Zealand were separated politically from the colony of New South Wales in 1840 and erected into a separate colony, the Royal Charter effecting this provided that "the principal Islands, heretofore known as, or commonly called, the 'Northern Island', the 'Middle Island', and 'Stewart's Island', shall henceforward be designated and known respectively as 'New Ulster', 'New Munster', and 'New Leinster'". Read more online.



First flag

New Zealand's first official flag was this one, the flag of the United Tribes. It was selected on 20 March 1834 by 25 chiefs from the far north who, with their followers, had gathered at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands. A number of missionaries, settlers and the commanders of ten British and three American ships were also present. Read more at: online.

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James Francis Hurley (1885-1962)



James Francis (Frank) Hurley

Antarctic achievements

Frank Hurley is an icon of Australian documentary photography and Antarctic exploration.

In 1911, Hurley began his Antarctic career by persuading Douglas Mawson to employ him as official photographer on the 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE). Hurley's famous motion picture images of expeditioners being driven backwards by the strength of the katabatic winds at Cape Denison captured the day-to-day hardships and heroism of life in the Antarctic. He used a hand-crank movie camera, the Debie Parvo L 35mm, to document expedition activities. Hurley took part in a record-breaking sledging journey to the South Magnetic Pole (averaging 66 km per day) and filmed key events along the way.

On return to Australia, to recoup the cost of the expedition, Mawson toured across Australia and England giving lectures, and

showing Hurley's film *Home of the Blizzard* (Life in the Antarctic).

Joining Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, Hurley risked his life to preserve the legendary motion-picture films and glass-plate images that recorded the extraordinary events of 1916. Trapped in pack ice, *Endurance* was crushed and all hands abandoned the vessel to camp on floating ice hundreds of miles out to sea. With the ship about to sink, Hurley dived into the freezing water to retrieve his submerged films and plates. Later, with the team facing a long trek across the sea ice, he bargained with Shackleton to let him keep 120 glass plates while the remaining 400 were smashed on the ice. Sparing his small pocket camera, he later photographed Shackleton departing on the lifeboat, the *James Caird*, sailing for a whaling station on South Georgia to send rescue for the rest of the shipwrecked party.

Hurley served in Europe as an official photographer with the Australian Imperial Forces from 1917-18, producing the only

colour-plate photographs of World War I.

Returning to Antarctica with Mawson on the 1929-31 British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition (BANZARE), Hurley documented the voyage, air surveys and proclamation of Australian Antarctic Territory in the film, *The Siege of the South*.

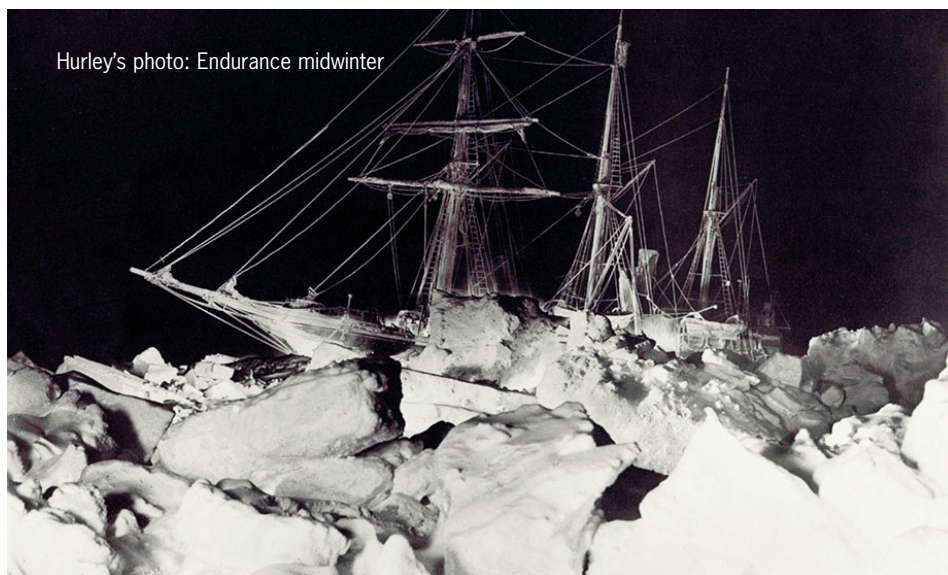
Awards and honours

A founding force of Australian documentary filming, Hurley continued to work in exotic places and hostile environments, working up to his death in 1962.

Hurley's striking images captured the magic and power of Antarctica, sparking the imagination of the Australian public.

Mount Hurley in Antarctica is named in his honour.

SOURCE: Australian Government, Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Antarctic Division
<http://www.antarctica.gov.au/about-antarctica/history/people/frank-hurley>



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NZ right-to-die-bill

A bill legalizing voluntary euthanasia has passed its first hurdle after Parliament voted to send it to a select committee by 76 to 44.

The vote on David Seymour's End of Life Choice bill follows an emotive and highly charged debate, after NZ First raised the stakes by pegging its support to a binding public referendum.

Parliament has twice previously voted down bills to legalize euthanasia.

The vote means the public will get to have a say. Proponents point to polls showing a high level of public support for euthanasia, but the debate has historically been polarizing. – SOURCE: Radio NZ

Singapore: relax free speech, assembly laws

The Singapore government's laws limiting critical speech and peaceful assembly are overly broad and make the country a repressive place severely restricting what can be said and published, Human Rights Watch said last week.

In its first wide-ranging report on Singapore in 12 years, the group called on the government to amend or repeal laws and rules that restrict speech and assembly and drop charges against individuals for peaceful speech and assembly.

Singapore's Ministry of Communications and Information did not immediately have a comment on the report. The government has held the position that Singapore's laws and regulations were needed to maintain social order and harmony.

The Singapore's attorney-general's office has started contempt of court proceedings against the prime minister's nephew and authorities are prosecuting a prominent human rights activist for organizing assemblies without permit.

"Beneath the slick surface of gleaming high-rises, however, it is a repressive place, where the government severely restricts what can be said, published, performed, read, or watched," the 133-page report said.

Human Rights Watch called on the Singapore government to amend or repeal in entirety laws that it said were too broadly worded and used to "arrest, harass, and prosecute critical voices," including the Sedition Act and the Public Order Act. –SOURCE: Fathin Ungku, Jack Kim, Neil Fullick.



Oz detention compared to Guantánamo

Jake Roper, 14, was held in isolation at the Don Dale juvenile detention facility for 15 days. The length of time he spent there was just five days shy of the worst disciplinary punishment permitted in the solitary confinement unit for enemy combatants held in Guantánamo Bay.

After the ABC Four Corners graphic investigation into the juvenile detention facility in the Northern Territory, a royal commission has been announced by the Australian prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, to investigate how events there were allowed to occur.

One pressing question will be how Don Dale permitted staff to isolate children for such lengthy periods of time and what policies it had in place to monitor some of the more extreme methods seen used in the vision obtained by Four Corners.

Much of that policy information currently remains secret, making Australia's juvenile detention centres in some respects less transparent than Australia's immigration detention system and the United States' Guantánamo Bay facility in Cuba.

Behavioral management, restrictive detention, isolation – these are the more polite phrases used, invariably, to describe solitary confinement. Don Dale's little rooms were called the behavioural management unit. It was in this wing we see footage of Roper, then a 14-year-old boy, getting out of his cell in the unit after spending a distressing two weeks in confinement. His frustration led him to escape the cell, which sparked a series of events that ended in six boys who were held in the unit being tear-gassed by guards.

The use of this form of confinement has been singled out internationally for strong criticism.

Australia and Indonesia in partnership for democracy

Can democracy deliver? This is the question currently being asked in all corners of the globe. If we look at Indonesia's transformative democratic journey – today it is the world's third-largest democracy – the reply can only be resoundingly affirmative yes.

More importantly, democracy must deliver. Yet as democratization has unleashed promising reform in some countries, it has triggered conflict and convulsions in others, inflicting violence, carnage and suffering on the most vulnerable and forcing people in their millions to seek refuge across borders and continents.

Even where we might celebrate more lasting democratic transformation, we are reminded too that democracy is a process prone to ebbs and flows, progress and regress. A case can be made of recent signs of shifting dynamics – of democracy adrift, or even in retreat.

We are becoming increasingly cognisant of the implications for democracy of new technologies. Some are positively transformative, making information available with unprecedented speed and scope, promising a more informed electorate armed with new avenues to express their democratic preferences, voice their expectations of elected representatives and hold their leaders to greater account.

Yet the same technologies can be – are being – exploited, with damaging consequences for democracy. More abundant information has not produced a more informed and open-minded populace. Rather, rising signs of intolerance permeate in a time of particularly divisive identity politics. Inconvenient facts are denied and false information is spread. –SOURCE: East Asia Forum; R M Marty Natalegawa

Read more most issues from Commonwealth Corner on page seven of the electronic version of *The Southern Yarn*.

Murray Burt is a retired editor and journalist who is concerned that lesser elements of the Commonwealth get poor media coverage. 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.



birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Herons

Black-crowned night heron

When most other birds have gone to roost, these nocturnal feeders are out using their relatively large light-sensitive eyes looking for supper.

I haven't spotted them here, since I don't normally do nocturnal bird-watching, but they can also be found in Manitoba and the USA. Their preferred habitat is marshy water edges where they feed on frogs, small fish and even ducklings.

Australia and New Zealand have the Nankeen (rufous) night heron, which is similar but has more tan coloring on the back. They are not so strictly nocturnal and can be seen feeding at coastal rivers, estuaries, harbours and even larger urban fish ponds.

Here in Manitoba we are more likely to see their larger cousin, the majestic great blue heron, feeding along river banks and lake shores.



Photo credit: Rodney Cammauf, U.S. National Park Service [link]

Black-crowned night heron – immature and mature – after sundown near the Bund, Shanghai, on the Huangpu River. Photos by Charlie Powell



Cattle egret: Photo credit: [link]

Another member of the family that has been steadily establishing itself in Australia, since the '40s, is the cattle egret.

A common sight alongside cattle, sheep and horses, it feeds on ticks, flies and any other insects, frogs or lizards that they disturb while grazing. Some of them head over to New Zealand in the autumn to over-winter.

Reader feedback:

Here are some interesting links that have recently been sent to me:

Citizen Science Reveals Annual Bird Migrations Across Continents – eBird: [link]

Birdbath, food or water? How to attract your favourite birds to your garden: [link]

Pecking order: how John Gould dined out on the birds of Australia: [link]

How birds stay warm through Canada's cold winters: [link]



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