

The Southern Yarn

February 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

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

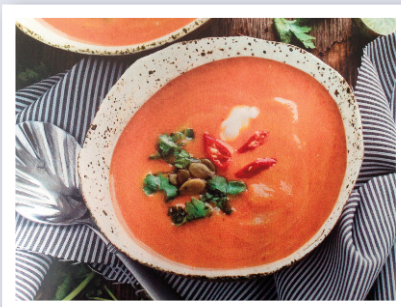
Saturday 28th April 2018, 5 pm

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!



Thai Butternut Squash Curry Soup

"This is one of my favourite soups to make once the weather starts to get chilly. It's so healthy and full of nutrients from the butternut squash, sweet potatoes, fresh ginger and turmeric. The smooth, creamy texture and touch of heat with exotic flavours from the red curry paste is just enough to keep your spoon wandering back for more." – Kelly Kwok Details on page 2



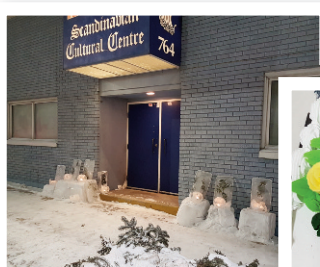
Trivia, soup

What is Don Bradman's Test cricket batting average? By what name was Australia known in the 18th century? Dame Roma Mitchell was the first Aust. female justice, appointed to the Supreme Court in which State? Milford Sound is one of the wettest places on earth. True or false? Sir Edmund Hillary first climbed to the top of Mount Everest in what year? What is the name for the traditional fenced Maori village? These are some of the tricky questions tackled by members at our Australia Day and Waitangi Day celebration on February 3rd. To their credit, the winners, Hetcher team (NZ) and Gates team (Aus), scored 21/23 and 19/23 respectively in the trivia quiz prepared by Judy. This, along with the two-up games and soup cook-off competition ensured lots of fun and lots of prize-winners, not to mention lots of satisfied tummies!

Thank you to all who put time and thought into the potluck offerings – soups and savouries, meringues, lamingtons, cakes and cookies; and pitched in to help make it another very enjoyable event.



Celebrations for our national days began with an Australia Day lunch of meat pies and more at Miss Browns on Friday January 26, and culminated with the DUCW's Australia Day and Waitangi Day event on Saturday February 3 with a variety of games, potluck dinner, and soup contest. Thanks everyone for joining us.



online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



What better way to thumb your nose at our Manitoba winter than to gather with friends around some steaming pots of homemade soup?! Our annual national days' celebration was another sensory success that covered all bases: vocal exercise (singing our national anthems), gastronomic satisfaction (food), brain power enhancement (trivia quiz), aerobic exercise (our version of two-up), social engagement (all ages interacting), dehydration abatement (the bar), material gratification (prizes) and relaxation therapy (fun and fellowship).

And while we were enjoying all that upstairs, the Scandinavians were having just as much fun doing something similar on the main floor – except their exercise appeared to be dancing rather than two-up. Maybe one year our two clubs will join together for the occasion...?

The soups were so popular that we will be sharing the top three recipes in the Yarn, starting with Judy's Thai butternut this month, p.2.

Also this month, Jenny shares the heart-warming story of the Burrumbuttock Hay Run, in Getting to know... p.4. And our featured bird is the cuckoo, p.6.

Thank you to our other contributors – Murray Burt, Judy, Michelle, Peter, Brian and our advertisers!

Reader feedback:

Adelie Hurley

Here's a little further interesting information... Frank Hurley's daughter, Adelie, was named for the Adelie penguin native to the Antarctic. Adelie became a famous photo-journalist. She is also worth googling! In her later years she lived on the north coast of NSW with her widowed twin sister, Antoinette. Died not that long ago.

–Judy Powell

president's ramblings

Peter Munn

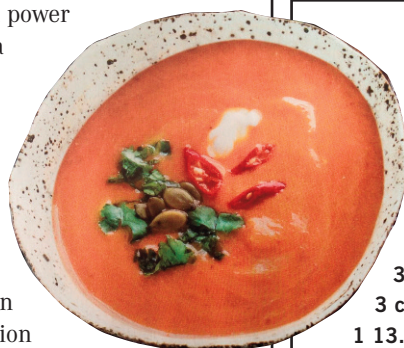


Brrr! It's been really cold leading up to this week-end, and even though it has warmed up since this morning, it is still about -28C as I write this (Feb. 4), with the wind chill factored in. I attended our Australia Day/Waitangi Day event last night, and it was a great

evening. Thanks to Judy and Charlie for the work they put in to make it such a good time. The traditional "Cook Off" event added to the great pot-luck dinner, and all the soups presented were brilliant. Leon and I were inconsolable when we realized neither of our soups ended up with a major recognition. Maybe next year.

So keep warm, bundle up, and maybe by the time you read this, you have plugged the car in for the last time this winter.

Peter



FIRST PLACE WINNER – JUDY POWELL

Thai Butternut Squash Curry Soup Servings = 4 to 5

5 cups butternut squash
(or pumpkin), peeled and cubed
1 cup sweet potatoes, peeled, cubed
1 medium onion, peeled, diced
1 tbsp fresh ginger, peeled
3 garlic cloves, sliced
3 cups chicken or vegetable broth
1 13.5-oz can coconut milk

½–1 tbsp red curry paste, to taste
½ tsp turmeric
1 tbsp fresh lime juice
salt and pepper, to taste

For garnish (optional): **drizzle of coconut milk**, **pumpkin seeds**, **chopped cilantro leaves**, **sliced red chili pepper**

Place the squash, sweet potatoes, onion, ginger, garlic and broth in a 4-to 5-quart (3.8- to 4.7-L) slow cooker. Cook on low for 6 to 8 hours or on high for 3 to 4 hours, until the squash and sweet potatoes are soft and cooked through. Remove the lid and stir in the coconut milk, red curry paste, turmeric and lime juice. Allow the soup to cool slightly before puréeing. Using an immersion blender, purée directly in the slow cooker or pour contents into a blender and purée until smooth. Adjust seasonings as needed with salt and pepper. Serve warm in bowls and garnish with a drizzle of coconut milk, pumpkin seeds, cilantro and sliced red chili pepper, if desired. [The Asian Slow Cooker by Kelly Kwok]

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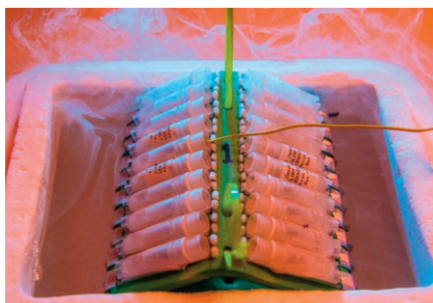
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Saving the reef...

[ABC News, Sally Rafferty, 1 Jan 2018]: A cryogenic sperm bank in Dubbo could help safeguard the future of the Great Barrier Reef. Taronga reproductive biologist Dr Rebecca Hobbs said researchers were “trying to identify corals that might be more heat tolerant or have other genetic benefits to help their survivability”. [Read more online.]



Fire birds with a purpose

[Australian Geographic staff, 18 Jan 2018]: For thousands of years Australia’s indigenous people have spoken about ‘firehawk’ raptors that intentionally spread bushfires in order to corner their prey.

Now, a new study has documented and confirmed the bizarre ritual of these fire-hawks, finding that at least three raptor species “act as propagators” of wild fire. [Read more online]:



Canadian expertise

[Winnipeg Free Press, Mike Sawatzky, 5 Feb 2018]: Australia isn’t renowned for its prowess at the Winter Olympic Games, but the sun-baked nation has a growing reputation on ski hills and ice runs.

Former Winnipegger **Tom Hammond** will be in the middle of it. He’s among the members of a dedicated Aussie support staff that will be helping athletes from Down Under push themselves to peak performance levels in Pyeongchang, South Korea. [Read more online]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Ducks are a dabbling

[NZHerald, 17 Jan 2018]: A record number of whoo ducklings have been located on Mt Taranaki in what is proving to be a boom year for the rare native blue duck.

Fifty-six ducklings have been found by Department of Conservation rangers on the eight rivers that DoC surveys on the Mouna as part of the Whio Forever partnership with Genesis. [Read more online]



Community goodwill ...

[NZHerald, 8 Feb 2018]: Taumarunui’s Bob Anderson, known as Sideshow Bob, has painted the interior and exterior of the historic Downes Hut on the right bank of the Whanganui River opposite Atene. Downes Hut is the latest in a series of voluntary painting projects completed by Sideshow Bob. Previous projects, including Whakaro Hut inside and out, the interior of John Coull Hut and the kitchen at Tieke, have won the community goodwill section of the NZ Master Painters annual awards. [Read more online]



Photo / Warren Buckland

Thieves are mis-bee hiving ...

[NZHerald, Sam Hurley, 6 Feb 2018]: New Zealand’s honey industry is losing millions of dollars every year as organised thieves target the hives and manufacturers of the golden product. Now the offending is becoming increasingly brazen with hundreds of kilograms of honey stolen at any one time, before being on-sold to a black market of local and international buyers. The Herald investigates this hive of crime. [Read more online]

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Burrumbuttock Hay Run

On January 26, 2018, the 13th Burrumbuttock Hay Run headed west to provide essential resources to drought-stricken farmers across regional New South Wales and Queensland. What exactly is the hay run and how did it get started?

The Burrumbuttock Hay Run (BHR) was founded by Brendan Farrell in 2014. When he heard about a farmer in Bourke, NSW, struggling in the drought, Brendan offered to take him a truck load of hay to help him out.

There have now been 13 successful hay runs delivering donated hay to drought-affected farmers all over NSW and Queensland.

BHR is about mates helping mates in times of need. Farmers impacted by drought often struggle to ask for help, and many also battle mental health issues because of the financial strain of trying to keep the farm afloat.

Although the hay delivered only provides temporary relief, it's about showing fellow Australians that someone cares about them. Awareness and education are also important for Brendan and the team because they believe "Aussie farmers are critical to our future in Australia".

Drought doesn't just impact farmers. It also impacts local businesses and schools within that community. Although the primary focus is taking hay to farmers, runs have also included trucks of dog food, fruit/vegies, pantry essentials, toiletries, household items, and other donations from community groups and local businesses across Australia.

All the hay is donated from generous farmers across Australia, and money constantly being sought to fuel the trucks transporting the hay.

No one in the BHR is paid a wage. Everyone volunteers, including all the truck drivers who also donate the use of their trucks and machinery to load and unload the hay.

To give you an idea of what's involved, the following are stats from a run in 2016 from Burrumbuttock (southern NSW) to Ilfracombe (central-west Qld) – 258 trucks, 406 trailers, 6 million dollars worth of hay,



We salute you, Brendan Farrell and all the truckers, farmers, community members and volunteers involved with the Burrumbuttock Hay Run. Photo: Charlie Powell.

1,800 km travelled, \$2,500 to \$3,000 in fuel and other costs per truck, more than 13,500 rounds and square bales of hay, 800 farmers feeding 300,000 animals, trucks from NSW, QLD, VIC, SA and TAS, and more than 500 volunteers.

The motto of the Burrumbuttock Hay

Runners is 'keeping the dream alive'. They believe in doing whatever it takes to help keep the dream alive for Aussie farmers. And for that, we say THANK YOU!

For more info or to make a donation, visit <http://hayrunners.com/>.

Photo below: www.hayrunners.com



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Australia deports Kiwis

Alex Viane, 40, faces deportation from Australia to New Zealand, despite never having set foot in NZ and having no ties to the country. His parents, partner and baby daughter are all Australian citizens.

Viane was born in American Samoa and became a New Zealand citizen as a youngster, despite never being to the country. His family moved to Australia in 1990, when he was a child. Last July, Australian Immigration and Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton ordered his deportation on “character grounds” due to undisclosed criminal convictions. Viane challenged the order, but the Federal Court dismissed his appeal on Jan 12.

Viane is one of more than 3,000 people who have been deported following an amendment in December 2014 to section 501 of Australia’s Migration Act. Anyone who has committed offences with prison sentences totalling 12 months or more can be expelled now, regardless of how long they have lived in Australia. Many people have been deported for minor offences, such as drug possession or shoplifting.

Under a long-standing agreement between the two countries, New Zealanders can live and work in Australia indefinitely without gaining citizenship. Out of more than 600,000 New Zealanders living in Australia, about 400,000 are not Australian citizens.—SOURCE: World Socialist Website



Christchurch collapse no crime

By Sam Price and Tom Peters. New Zealand police have announced that they will not prosecute anyone over the collapse of the six-storey Canterbury Television (CTV) building, which resulted in 115 deaths.

The poorly designed and unsafe office

building was flattened in the February 2011 Christchurch earthquake, which killed 185 people in total and devastated entire suburbs. The police investigation, which took four years, considered charges of negligent manslaughter against Alan Reay and David Harding. Reay’s consultancy firm managed the construction of the building, while Harding worked directly as the engineer on the project.

Police and the Christchurch Crown Solicitor received advice from engineering firm Beca, which found that Harding was working beyond his level of competence and without proper supervision. Crown Law dismissed the advice, however, arguing that despite significant deficiencies in the building’s design, there was insufficient evidence that Reay and Harding’s work on the building amounted to a “major departure” from what would normally be expected. —SOURCE: World Socialist Website

NZ PM Ardern is pregnant

NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has revealed that she is pregnant, making her the first world leader since 1990 to be expecting a child while in office. Arden said on Jan 18 that she and her partner, Clarke Gayford, are due to have their first baby in June.

“Clarke and I are really excited that in June our team will expand from two to three, and that we’ll be joining the many parents out there who wear two hats,” she said in a Facebook post.

“I’ll be Prime Minister AND a mum, and Clarke will be ‘first man of fishing’ and stay-at-home dad.”

Ardern said she would be taking six weeks leave following the baby’s birth.

Marriage equality, child rights

Australia made important progress in 2017 by legalizing same-sex marriage and taking steps to end the abuse of children in detention, Human Rights Watch said today in its World Report 2018. At the same time, the government maintained its cruel practice of warehousing asylum seekers in abysmal conditions on Nauru and Manus Island in Papua New Guinea in the face of repeated calls from United Nations agencies and experts to end offshore processing.

In the 643-page World Report, its 28th edition, Human Rights Watch reviews human rights practices in more than 90 countries. In his introductory essay, Executive Director Kenneth Roth writes that political leaders willing to stand up for human rights principles showed that it is possible to limit authoritarian populist agendas. When

combined with mobilized publics and effective multilateral actors, these leaders demonstrated that the rise of anti-rights governments is not inevitable.

In December, parliament enacted legislation allowing same-sex marriage following a referendum that showed strong support for gay marriage. A Royal Commission report provided a roadmap to end systematic abuse against children in detention in the Northern Territory.

Fiji: no impunity in sex offences

The Fiji NGO Coalition on Human Rights condemns all acts of sexual offences and welcomes the launching of a police investigation into recent allegations. The group is responding to allegations of sexual offence by police officers that was reported by a sex worker.

“We welcome the Fiji Police Sexual Offences Unit’s response to these allegations, in launching an investigation. This is important because the authorities bear the responsibility for ending impunity for sexual offences – it is a crime and an extremely serious violation of human rights. There must be justice for the victim,” said Coalition Chair, Nalini Singh.

A sexual offence is the worse form of physical and psychological infringement of a person’s life. There should be a transparent and independent investigation by the Fiji Police Force in this case involving police officers. The involvement of a sex worker should not be a deterrent to take the matter seriously.

In a recent study done by FWRM “Balancing the Scales: Improving Fijian Women’s Access to Justice” revealed that 45 out of the 49 women interviewed had gone to the police and of these women only half of them had felt safe in the Police Station and eight said the police had sexually harassed or threatened them.

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.



(Left) female koel by Aviceda - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, [online link]. (right) Male Pacific or Eastern koel By Aviceda - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, [online link].

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Koel

At the Australia Day and Waitangi Day celebration on Feb. 3rd, Norm Griffiths and I were reminiscing about hearing storm birds calling in the night back in Queensland. That's the name we knew them by – turns out their real name is Pacific or Eastern Koel. They are a member of the cuckoo family. Others in Australia include the pheasant coucal, the channel-billed cuckoo and several smaller members. The pheasant coucal's call is quite different from the koel's and had me intrigued, during my Darwin days, until I identified who was responsible. That was pre-internet – so thanks to my two volumes by Peter Slater - A Field Guide to Australian Birds: non-passerines (1970) and passerines (1974).

As you can see, the male and female koel are quite different. Not so with the long-tailed cuckoo which is a summer visitor to New Zealand for the purpose of breeding. It is joined by another, smaller species, the shining cuckoo (shining bronze-cuckoo in Australia), also only in the summer for breeding.

In North America, including southern Canada, we have the black-billed and yellow-billed cuckoos; Florida has the mangrove cuckoo. Like the koel, the yellow-billed cuckoo also announces the approach of a storm, for which it has earned the nickname "rain crow".

Cuckoos have their pros and cons: they are brood-parasites, ie, notorious for laying their egg in the nest of another bird (host). Upon hatching, the cuckoo chick ejects other nestlings or eggs from the nest and incessantly cries to be fed. The host is usually a

much smaller bird but still fulfills parental duties without fuss. On the other hand, cuckoos are rare for their ability to feed on hairy caterpillars, including the tent caterpillars that Winnipeggers are so familiar with, and so are invaluable to agriculture.



Reader feedback

Spoonbills nesting in Sandgate – sent in by M. Tierney.



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