

The Southern Yarn

Oct/Nov 2018



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

OCTOBER

Formal (?) Dinner
Saturday 27th October, 6 pm

Bailey's Restaurant

185 Lombard Ave, Winnipeg.

See menu and info on Page 1. Let Judy know if you are coming – Ph: 204-275-7083 or E-mail: judy_charliep@hotmail.com or info@downunderclub.mb.ca

NOVEMBER

The even-less-formal AGM
Friday 30th November, 7 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre

764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

We look forward to seeing a good turnout at this annual lively event. It's a good chance to raise suggestions for Club activities while enjoying snacks and drinks from the bar. Come and make a difference.

DECEMBER

The even-more-fun Family Christmas Party
Sunday 9th December, 5 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre

764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

Santa will bring the gifts – you bring the food. Don't forget the kids! This is a FAMILY POTLUCK DINNER. Send in the names and ages of children who will be present to Margaret Munn at 204-237 1805 or social@downunderclub.mb.ca

JANUARY

Australia Day and Waitangi Day
Saturday 26th January, 2019, 5 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre

764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

This year's bake-off theme is "Kids in the Kitchen" - any dish prepared by a teen or younger. Let 'em loose and see what they come up with ... Other potluck contributions will of course be welcome(/needed?)

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



Charlie, Peter, Terry and Kyle relaxing after the usual frustrating round.

Golf Tournament

We had a great day of golf at The Players course, held in late August. The course was in good condition, the beer was cold, and a good time was enjoyed by all the players. Once again, the Champion golfer of the year was **Peter Debenham**, handily taking the lowest

score. Congratulations to him. The winner of the Longest Drive competition was **Terry Roberts**, splitting the middle of the fairway, and **Charlie Powell** showed his skill with his iron play, winning the Closest to the Pin competition. See you there next year!!



The executive of the DUCW invites you and your family and friends to enjoy a fabulous dinner at Bailey's Restaurant in downtown Winnipeg on **Saturday October 27**, at 6 pm.

Check out the menu for our annual not-so-formal formal dinner. It offers excellent value for a mere \$40 per person plus taxes and gratuities. We ask you to let Judy know by **October 19** if you are coming – 204-275-7083 or judy_charliep@hotmail.com or info@downunderclub.mb.ca

No need to pre-order, and desserts will be available as an extra to order at the dinner. Payment to be made individually to Baileys on the night. Looking forward to an excellent evening with some rather excellent people.

Annual dinner

Entrée choices are ...

8 oz. Filet Mignon

Beef tenderloin, charbroiled to your specifications.

Chicken "Poseidon"

Breast of chicken filled with crab, baby shrimp, and herbed cream cheese.

Veal Scaloppini a la Porto

Medallions of Provimi veal tenderloin gently sautéed and served with a Port wine reduction.

Mediterranean Seafood

Jumbo prawns, scallops and Atlantic salmon sautéed in olive oil, with sun-dried tomatoes, olives, herbs, and feta cheese, finished with white wine.

Rack of New Zealand Lamb

A seven-point rack roasted and glazed in a delicate herb reduction.

Above Entrées Include:

Salad of Manitoba Field Greens with a Creamy Cucumber & Dill Dressing, Fresh Rolls; Oven Roasted Lemon Potatoes; The Chef's Selected Vegetables; Coffee or Tea

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



Lots of bits of news for your reading pleasure again this issue. While browsing, the persistent story that kept coming up was the drought that is affecting widespread parts of Australia, as well as New Zealand. Folk have even resorted to rain dances! [see more at this link] While it is a good example of typical Aussie humour in the face of hardship, it could be taken as a bit too light-hearted for such a critical issue. I believe the “performers” are dead serious and desperate to get the attention of the public and the politicians any way they can. For many, it is past the point of rain now providing relief: they need financial and emotional assistance. And in the longer term, some new strategies to mitigate the hardships of future prolonged extreme dry seasons. Obviously great minds have been at work addressing this challenge for some years. A good summary of one such effort is the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) publication: “The science of providing water solutions for Australia” [available online here]. For our part, we catch what spring run-off we can and pump it into barrels for use on the garden. This year there was precious little (yes, Manitoba experienced a drought, too), so plan B was drip-irrigators, sprinklers and buckets.

My thanks, on your behalf, to the other contributors to this Yarn: Jenny, Ed, Peter, Judy, Murray, Brian and our advertisers!

Enjoy,

Things to Watch Out For ...

Looking for your Aussie or Kiwi small screen fix?

YOUTUBE: *A Country Practice* (Aus) – all episodes are now screening

NETFLIX

Kiwi movies – *What We Do In the Shadows*, *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*.

Kiwi TV series – *The Almighty Johnsons*, *World's Most Extraordinary Homes* (each episode features a home in NZ).

Australian movies – *The Water Diviner*, *The Babadook*. Australian TV series – *Secret City*, *Rake*, *The Code*, *Wentworth*

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



It didn't take long for colder weather to supplant the great run of summer weather we have had this year. Hopefully we have a few warmer days ahead. The AFL and NRL finals were played a few days ago, and for fans of AFL, they were treated to a Grand Final classic. Collingwood, a team you either love or loath, was ahead by 5 goals early on, something that was totally unexpected. But West Coast drew closer, and the last quarter was a real nail-biter, with West Coast getting the victory by 5 points. The crowd was over 100,000, and if you have

never experienced a finals game at the MCG, I can tell you that your senses will be overwhelmed by the roar of the crowd during the game.

Our annual dinner is at the end of October. It is always one of the year's highlights, and we welcome everyone to join us this year at Bailey's restaurant. Details are on page one.

Next, a request. We hold our Annual General Meeting in November, which does not have a great attendance record. We really need you to make an effort and come along to support the club, and the members carrying the load of running the club. No, you will not be hijacked into a position on the board just by coming along.

Having said that, if you would like to enquire about helping the club, you can call me at 204 237-1805, any time.

100 years ago

[The Guardian, 22 Sep 2018]

Norman Lindsay wrote *The Magic Pudding* reportedly to settle an argument with his friend Bertram Stevens, claiming children preferred to read about food than fairies. The book, about the adventures of Bill Barnacle, Sam Sawnoff, their new friend Bunyip Bluegum and the cut-an'-come-again puddin' named Albert, was published in 1918, and has never been out of print. See “The Magic Pudding: 100 years of Norman Lindsay's classic in pictures” here: [online link].



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Australia's driest September

[The Age, Peter Hannam, 1 Oct. 2018] "Below average rainfall covered almost the entire country" last month, Dr Trewin, senior climatologist at the Bureau of Meteorology, said, adding that it pipped 1957 as the driest September, and trailed only April 1902 as the driest for any month. Melbourne posted its fifth-driest September on record, with no days recording more than 5 millimetres of rain - only the second time that's happened for that month in records going back to 1855. [More online]



On the beaten track

Now the longest rail trail in Australia, the 161 km Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT) follows the disused Brisbane Valley rail line that commenced construction at Wulkuraka near Ipswich in 1884 and was completed at Yarraman in 1913. The BVRT winds its way up the Brisbane Valley, traversing farmland, forests, picturesque rural settings and country towns. [More online]



Short back and sides

Shearing season has started but one sheep in particular has been preoccupying Sir David Fagan. The shearing legend spoke to The Country's Jamie Mackay about the social media frenzy surrounding "Boofy," after his son Jack gave the sheep an All Blacks-inspired mullet haircut. [More online]

Also 100 years ago

October and December 1918. In two months, New Zealand lost about half as many people to influenza as it had in the whole of the First World War. No event has killed so many New Zealanders in such a short time.

Many people believed that the severe form of influenza was caused by the arrival of 'a deadly new virus' aboard the Royal Mail

liner Niagara on 12 October, but this is unlikely to have been the case. However, the pandemic arose, by the time it eased in December the death toll had reached 9000. Maori suffered heavily, with about 2500 deaths. [More online]



Fishing in comfort

They say Kiwis have a "number 8 wired" do-it-yourself attitude.

And that's certainly the case for three men who turned an old caravan into a fully functioning boat in stunning fashion.

On Monday the DIY caravan owner was pictured sailing his converted vehicle on Lake Tarawera near Rotorua.

A photographer captured the moment the DIY goer turned boat owner was out on the water enjoying the opening of fishing season, casting a line out the front of his caravan. [Read more].

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When the AHC comes to town

On Tuesday August 28, passport officers from the Australian High Commission were in Winnipeg to conduct passport interviews and hold an Australian alumni event. Many people were able to take advantage of the opportunity to renew or apply for passports without having to make the trip to Ottawa, Toronto or Vancouver. The alumni event in the evening led to a lot of conversation and discussion about a variety of topics, not the least of which was the value of staying connected to the larger alumni community in Canada. A great day all round. Special thanks to Steve, Luke and Mariela from the AHC, and to Natasha and Akshata in Ottawa for organising this opportunity for us.

The next round of passport interviews is



likely a year or more away, but that could change depending on the number of people who need new or renewed passports. To help the AHC plan the timing for the next event, watch out for their survey of which cities in Canada to visit. The next time they run the survey, it will be posted on social media. So we strongly encourage you to:

- “like” the AHC’s Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianInCanada/>
- watch for announcements regularly visit their website <https://canada.embassy.gov.au/> for postings about upcoming passport interviews
- stay tuned to *The Southern Yarn* and our Facebook page and website.

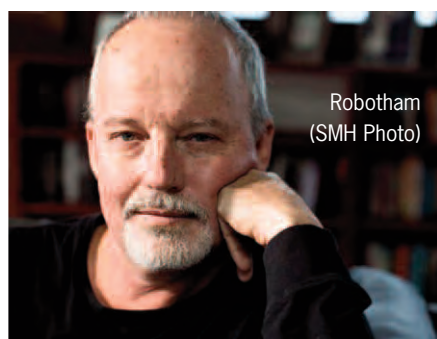
Aussie author book event, you’re invited!

On SATURDAY OCTOBER 20 at 7:00 pm, Australian author **Michael Robotham** will be in conversation with Terry MacLeod at McNally Robinson Grant Park.

We will be co-presenting the event with McNally and would love to have a big turnout of members and friends to welcome Michael and hear about his work.

One of the world’s most acclaimed authors of thriller fiction, Michael will also be signing his book *The Other Wife* (Little, Brown and Company).

Childhood sweethearts William and Mary have been married for 60 years. William is a celebrated surgeon, Mary a devoted wife. Both have a strong sense of right and wrong.



Robotham (SMH Photo)

This is what their son, Joe O’Loughlin, has always believed. But when Joe is summoned to the hospital with news that his father has been brutally attacked, his world is turned upside down. Who is the strange woman crying at William’s bedside, covered in his blood – a friend, a mistress, a fantasist or a killer?

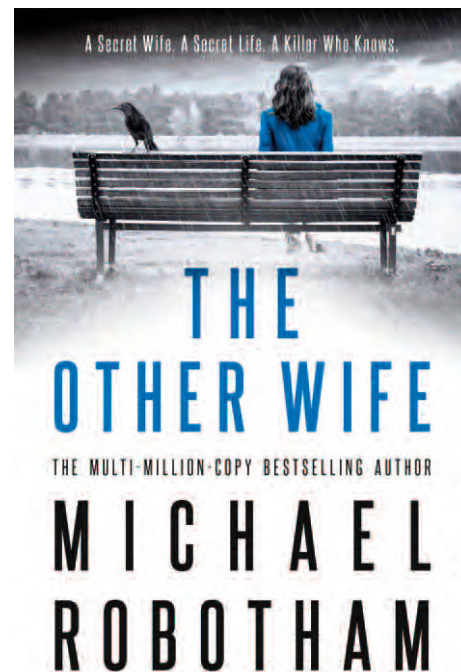
Against the advice of the police, Joe launches his own investigation. As he learns more, he discovers sides to his father he never knew – and is forcibly reminded that the truth comes at a price.

Michael has been an investigative journalist in Britain, Australia and the US. His series of psychological thrillers featuring psychologist Joe O’Loughlin have sold millions of copies around the globe. Robotham lives in Sydney with his wife and three daughters.

Host Terry MacLeod is an independent Emmy-nominated journalist, Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal Recipient, and former

CBC Radio and TV host, presenter and producer.

For more information about the event, check out the write-up at the McNally Robinson website [link]. For more information about Michael, visit his website at <http://www.michaelrobotham.com>.





Nauru: Refugee children 'living without hope, UN told

A legal advocacy group has told the UN Human Rights Council that more than 100 asylum seeker and refugee children are living without hope on Nauru. The Human Rights Law Centre addressed the latest Council session in Geneva.

The Centre's Daniel Webb told the Council that despite the fact the Australian Government was professing its commitment to human rights in Geneva, it continued to indefinitely imprison 102 children in its offshore detention centre on Nauru.

"Imprisoned for fleeing the same atrocities our Government comes here and condemns. And after five years of detention, these children have now lost hope. Some have stopped speaking. Some have stopped eating. A 10-year-old boy recently tried to kill himself."

Samoa: Reinstating corporal punishment in schools

Samoa's ombudsman and a Supreme Court judge say they're at a loss as to what has motivated a move to reinstate corporal punishment in the country's high schools. Justice Vui Clarence Nelson and Maiava Iulai Toma have spoken out against the amendment to the Education Act. Samoa banned the use of corporal punishment in 2013. The government at the time saying it was motivated to abolish corporal punishment in all settings.

Maiava, who also heads Samoa's Human Rights Institution, doesn't understand the motivation for change. And Justice Vui Clarence Nelson says he's at a loss to why the Ministry is pushing the bill. The ministry has not responded to email and telephone requests for comment.

Pacific leaders call out Indonesia at UN over West Papua

Vanuatu's prime minister Charlot Salwai, a long time supporter of West Papuan self-

determination, told the General Assembly in New York that decolonisation must remain on the UN agenda. He said the Human Rights Council must investigate human rights abuses in the Indonesian provinces. The Marshall Islands president, Hilda Heine, told the assembly's 73rd session that the Pacific Islands Forum supported "constructive engagement" with Indonesia on the issue. While Tuvalu's prime minister Enele Sopoaga continued his call for recognition of the indigenous people. "The United Nations must also engage with the people of West Papua to find lasting solutions to their struggles." Indonesia rejected what it called attacks on its sovereignty with vice president Muhammad Jusuf Kalla demanding respect for its territorial integrity. (Radio NZ)

The Human Development Index, Samoa and sustainable tourism

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released its Human Development Index (HDI) a couple of days ago, heralding progress in Samoa, Fiji, Palau and Tonga due to their ability to maintain their positions in the High Human Development category. Marshall Islands was included in the index for the first time. And Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, to round off the Pacific Islands, were seated at the other end of the scale and rated in the Low Human Development category. The UNDP, in this latest index, stated that the data it relied on to reach its conclusions is comprehensive. On the whole the recently released 2018 HDI concludes that "overall trend globally is toward continued human development improvements, with many countries moving up through the human development categories". Samoa's consistency in maintaining benchmarks and progress in human development indicators in recent years is an achievement that would be the envy of other Pacific Island nations. Full credit should go to Prime Minister Tuilaepa Dr. Sa'ilele Malielegaoi and his Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP)-led Government. They have remained steadfast in terms of service delivery and focused on the priority areas of health, education, agriculture and infrastructure. (Samoa Observer)

Australia needs to guarantee military exports are not used in unlawful attacks in Yemen

[Opinion: Human Rights Watch] The Australian government must ensure that its military exports are not contributing to violations of international law by the warring parties in Yemen, Save the Children,

Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch said in a joint letter today to the Australian ministers of foreign affairs and defence. Australia recently made clear its intention to become one of the world's largest military exporters; however, the non-governmental organizations warn this comes with a responsibility to ensure these exports are not being used in violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law. "Australia should use its place on the world stage to end human rights abuses, rather than supplying means to potentially prolong them," said Save the Children director of policy and international programs Mat Tinkler. Save the Children, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch are now seeking guarantees that Australia's military exports to Saudi Arabia are not being used to commit or facilitate violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

NZ's Ardern to UN: We must rebuild multilateralism

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has called on the countries of the United Nations to rebuild and recommit to multilateralism, saying they must not "blame the nameless, faceless 'other'" and retreat into isolationism. However, Ardern said the country's isolation had not made it insular, with engagement with the rest of the world shaping its identity: she spoke of growing up in the 1980s, when apartheid in South Africa and nuclear testing in the Pacific became touchstone events for Kiwis. She said the UN had been at the heart of that international community, establishing a set of international norms and human rights which former New Zealand prime minister Peter Fraser said offered the chance for "a peace that would be real, lasting and worthy of human dignity".

.....
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.

By Judy Gallagher -
Cedar Waxwing -
Bombycilla cedrorum,
George Washington's
Birthplace National
Monument, Colonial
Beach, Virginia, CC BY
2.0, [link]



Cedar waxing feeding on mountain ash berries
(C. Powell)

birds i view...

by Charlie Powell

See da waxwing?

As you can see, waxwings are very distinctive birds. Like the shrikes featured in the August Southern Yarn, they have a very soft silky feather appearance and a mask. They differ by the crest and the highlighted red spot on the wings and yellow tip on the tail. It's the red wing spot that gives their common name – supposedly like a wax seal. Their Latin name, *Bombycilla*, translates as “silk-tail”.

There are two other species, the Bohemian waxwing and the Japanese waxwing, but none show up in Australia or New Zealand.

We are treated to annual visits by a flock of these sociable birds at this time of year to coincide with the ripening of the berries on our neighbour's mountain ash tree. There is a downside to this – they prefer to fly across the lane to our Manitoba maples to expel the seeds, etc.,! It can become quite a feeding frenzy, particularly if it is hot weather and the berries have fermented somewhat. The local robins join the party, as does another smaller bird that I am yet to identify.

Waxwings have been observed perched in a row on a wire and playfully passing a berry from beak to beak along the line and back again until one swallows it.

A poem by William H. Matchett captures the behavior of the birds I view ...

Cedar Waxwing

Drunk on sour cherries, the harlequin of birds
Lurches through the branches and lisps in bleared content,
While a Temperance Union Catbird shrieks her words
In a scathing, scolding lecture he's too happy to resent.

And another by Jacob Stratman:

A family of Cedar Waxwings has gathered
in the large, bare Oak in the corner
of the town cemetery. Like the scratchy
hesitancy of a needle on wax or my son's attempt
at whistling through a mouth of missing teeth,
their song turns in choir with the wind, low but sharp
this morning. Speckled high in the branches,
yards above the gray stones under the tree,
plotted years before sidewalks and wider, paved
streets, their dawn-tipped tails and blood-tipped
wings move in choir with the sun, not yet high
enough to dominate the day, but these bandits
of winter, poised here in mid-March still,
call me to stillness, invite me to pause here,
next to the Oak, under their elongated liturgy,
a little longer now, just a little bit longer.

Waxwing also happens to be a literary journal –
check it out here: <http://waxwingmag.org/mission.php>



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