

The Southern Yarn

May 2014



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

JULY

Saturday July 12, 2:00 pm
Pool Party and Potluck
57 D'arcy Drive

The club will provide burger and buns, but it is a potluck so please bring side dishes and desserts. Let Lynley know you are coming by calling her at 204-275-7631 or 204-943-3775.

ANYONE for CRICKET?

The club is exploring the interest in holding a social cricket game at Assiniboine Park this summer. It would be a limited over game with each batsman facing a minimum number of balls and the bowling to be shared evenly. In order to gauge the interest in this event, would anybody wanting to play, please email Peter Debenham at peter@mypd.ca. We will then advise the status of the event in the next newsletter.

RSVP

If you let us know you are coming, we can be ready for you! RSVP to 204-228-9959 or social@downunderclub.mb.ca.

Are your Membership dues paid for 2014?

Individual \$20 ... Couple/family \$30 ... Mail your cheques to the Club, pay at the next event, or online through the website. Any questions, contact Peter Debenham at peter@pdclact.ca or 204-955-0393.

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.



Veteran and DUCW founder Gordon Keatch was the star of our 2014 ANZAC Day and marking of his 90th birthday. The cake decorated with Morse code was a challenge for those with military intelligence.

Veteran celebrations

See more photos on the back page!

Almost 60 members and guests attended our annual ANZAC Day commemoration and potluck. Rev Brian Flowers did a wonderful job presiding over the service, and as always, we were delighted to share the commemoration with 6 veterans.

As Gordon said, everything went fine – including the anthems!

We welcomed some new faces, including Australian Naval Officer **Christopher Prescott**, RAN, and big thanks to Laurie Morris and her friend Jules who drove in from Ontario for the ANZAC service. As usual, the potluck dinner was a big success, with several dishes generating lots of conversation – and requests for recipes.

A highlight for the night was a surprise birthday celebration for Gordon Keatch, who marks his 90th birthday on Wednesday April 30. Gord's son Don, grand-



son Michael and Michael's wife Gemma came along to help us celebrate. Big thanks to Gemma for bringing lamingtons from the High Tea Bakery (where she works), and the delicious "morse code" cake made by Debbie Griffiths was fantastic. Leftovers of the cake are now in Gord's freezer! Gord was delighted by lots of birthday wishes, as well as two cards signed by everyone who was there.

Thanks to Kerry Nowicki for holding down the kitchen, to Liz Hydesmith for her help cleaning up, to Charlie Powell for manning the bar, and everyone else who helped make the evening one to remember. And if you've got a hankering for some lamingtons or a variety of other yummy treats, be sure to drop into the High Tea Bakery at 2103 Portage Avenue.



Christopher Prescott

online facebook or the web

www.downunderclub.mb.ca
email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



It was most excellent to commemorate ANZAC Day with so many fellow members on 26th April! And then to enjoy all that great food and birthday cake! Thanks for turning 90, Gordon.

However, I do have one slight problem with these events – I'm stuck behind the bar, and therefore miss a lot of the conversation that I see happening around the tables. Ah well, I guess the consolation is that I get to witness so much good comradeship in the room as members reminisce, laugh and no doubt learn a thing or two from our Veterans.

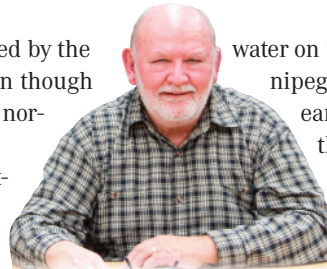
ANZAC Day is certainly still very much in the minds of many folk, especially down under. The Adelaide Advertiser, for one, ran a very informative series in the week leading up to the 25th. There is an excerpt and link on p.4. Speaking of great food, Betsy Burt had so many enquiries about the dish she contributed to the potluck, Goan Halibut Coconut Curry, that she has sent in the recipe (p.6). Gordon takes a break from his "Getting to know" interviews this month, but there is still some important member news on p.4. Thanks to all who have contributed for this edition – Murray, Jenny, Judy, Betsy, Peter and Brian.

Enjoy!



Owen, Lynley & Jason Davidson's newest member.

Everyone is encouraged by the warmer weather, even though it is still colder than normal, however golf courses around Winnipeg are starting to open, plants are showing signs of regeneration, and most of the snow piles have gone. I recently travelled to Minnesota for the 19th year to enjoy a very social golf tournament, with friends that I have met down there. Like Winnipeg, this area of Minnesota just north of Brainerd has experienced a severe winter, and it doesn't seem right to play with a toque on my head. I missed playing in 1997, as 7 days before the tournament I had flown from Minneapolis from Winnipeg in mid April, and all you could see from 100 miles south of here was



president's ramblings

Peter Munn

water on the ground, and closer to Winnipeg literally hundreds of pieces of earthmoving equipment building the "Z" dike, giving Winnipeg flood protection literally just days ahead of disaster. I thought it appropriate that maybe I should stay home and be ready to pump out the basement if necessary. And talking of golf, and golf courses opening, we will be planning our Down

Under Club annual golf tournament again this summer. It is a fun event, you have the choice of playing either 9 or 18 holes, and you don't have to be a good golfer to play. We will let you know the date as soon as we can, so plan to be with us.

Have a great Spring!
Peter.



A good turnout at the club's ANZAC ceremony and potluck had us fetching chairs from other rooms to accommodate everyone.

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Illegal Fishing Clammed Shut

AUSTRALIA - The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) has seized four illegal boats carrying hundreds of illegally-harvested giant clams and sea cucumbers (trepane) in Northern Australia following a coordinated operation by Border Protection Command (BPC), including the Royal Australian Navy, the Department of the Environment and AFMA. The seized vessels were destroyed. Selling for as much as \$5000 each, giant clams have been driven to extinction in numerous parts of the region, and are listed as vulnerable under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The clams were harvested for their meat and valuable metre-long shells. Trade in giant clams is regulated globally and it is illegal to harvest the species in Australia without a permit.

Beer marinade could reduce levels of potentially harmful substances in grilled meats

The very same beer that many people enjoy at backyard barbeques could, when used as a marinade, help reduce the formation of potentially harmful substances in grilled meats, according to a new study from the

University of Porto in Portugal. Researchers on the study explained that past studies had shown an association between consumption of grilled meats and a high incidence of colorectal cancer. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are substances that can form when meats are cooked at very high temperatures, like on a backyard grill. [Link]



Aussie Mozzie welcome

IT IS the sort of mosquito that looks as if it would carry off the family pet or send anaemics running in tears.

But this mossie, the world's largest at about the size of a 5¢ coin, is one of the good guys.

Toxorhynchites speciosus could be a biological control for mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, Ross River and dengue fever. Its predatory larvae feed exclusively on the larvae of bloodsucking mossies: those responsible for diseases.

And as an adult it feeds entirely on sap and nectar, making it the only Aussie mozzie you would want at a barbecue. [Link]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Nakd water launches in Australia

New Zealand-based bottled water brand Nakd has launched in Australia.

Sourced in New Zealand's Bay of Plenty, Nakd said its water is bottled directly from an aquifer providing very soft water, with a low 'hardness' rating of 13, that goes through a natural filtration process at its source.

Nakd said its water is "rich in silica" and

is also slightly alkaline, with a natural pH level of 7.2. [Link]

Lamb Dishes Implicated in New Food Scandal

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has asked local authorities to conduct a round of sampling at takeaways serving lamb dishes after a survey by Which? found other unlabeled meats being used.

The consumer group tested 60 takeaway lamb curries and minced lamb kebabs, finding that 24 of them contained other meats such as beef or chicken. Five of the samples contained meat that could not be identified. Local authority sampling results submitted to the FSA during 2013 also showed that 43 out of 145 samples of takeaway meals containing lamb consisted of other meats, with 25 being entirely made up of beef. [Link].

Dolphins protect swimmer from shark attack

Swimmer Adam Walker was simply trying to help the dolphins. The mammals returned the favor in a fashion he may never be able to be repay.

Walker found himself swimming New Zealand's Cook Strait as a part of the Oceans Seven mission. The British open-water swimmer hopes to be the second person ever to complete this group of seven long-distance swims in sites around the world. He is also looking to raise funds for Stop Whaling, a nonprofit group focused on whale and dolphin conservation.

His swim in New Zealand spanned 16 miles, and he didn't expect to encounter any sharks. But, alas, Walker looked down in the middle of the swim and saw a great white below him.

Walker was worried, to say the least. And then a pod of dolphins swam up and surrounded him. The group of about 10 stayed with him for an hour until the shark left.

"I'd like to think they were protecting me and guiding me home!" he posted on Facebook. "This swim will stay with me forever." [Link]

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remember

updates from members of our club

We wish peace and comfort to long-time member **Al Hansen** who is struggling with lung problems. Here's hoping the love of family and friends brings you joy and laughter, Al. Our thoughts are with you in the days ahead.

Our condolences to **Judy Powell** and family on the passing of her brother, **Stan**. Stan died in Adelaide on 4th April with Judy and other family at his hospital bedside.

And our best wishes to **Major Sumner** from Tal-kin-jeri, the Aboriginal dance group who performed at two of our Folklorama pavilions. Major recently had a heart attack while performing in Victoria Square in Adelaide. In his own words: "Yes, I'm healing slowly and I'm very lucky to be here." Continue to get better, Major.

And congratulations to **Jenny Gates** on winning second place in the Toastmasters District 64 International Speech Contest on April 26, 2014. Although she won't get to compete in Malaysia in the next round of the competition, she did get a beautiful trophy to mark her success.

100yearsago

history from downunder

THE 107 letters from The Great War were in little rolls, tied up in old ribbons and secured with rusty pins – forgotten for 60 years until found at the bottom of a woman's glory box.

The gripping accounts trace the experiences and courageous work of Edith "Queenie" Florence Avenell as an Australian Army nurse in Egypt, France and England from 1915 to 1917.

At 25, Queensland's youngest hospital matron enlisted the day after Gallipoli, writing from the front to her widowed mother Matilda and two younger brothers in Townsville, the first letter arriving in May, 1915.

The collection has been put together in a book by her niece Pat Richardson, from Nambucca Heads on the mid-north coast, documenting Queenie's work to mark the centenary of Anzac.

This and other ANZAC stories at this [\[link\]](#).



commonwealth place

by Murray Burt



Sydney building second airport

Prime Minister Tony Abbott has approved the construction of a second international airport in Sydney. The tab is put at \$2.4-billion, with principal funding coming from the private sector.

Planning and design starts immediately, he told Parliament. Construction begins in 2016 and flights in and out will be in the mid-2020s.

Its location will be at Badgerys Creek, 45km west of Sydney's central business district.

The green light from the Abbott government comes nearly 70 years after the idea was first debated. Badgerys Creek was a proposed site then in 1946 but it was then shelved for fear of backlash from local voters. When fully operational, the second airport will create up to 60,000 jobs.

It's to be curfew-free, addressing the criticism of Sydney's current Kingsford Smith Airport which is only 8km out, and it operates with a curfew between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Fiji vote and the Commonwealth

Fiji has set Sept 17 as the date for its first approved elections since the 1999 military coup that won it suspension from the Commonwealth.

Last month the Fijian Elections Office repeated calls to those who have not registered to vote, to do so before the election writs are issued in August, at which time registration of voters will cease.

"If they do not register, they will not be allowed to vote," Elections Supervisor Mohammed Saneem said.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma welcomed the developments in Fiji because it signaled a return to Commonwealth values of human rights, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms—freedom of the media, freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of assembly.

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Meanwhile, the most likely winner in the forthcoming vote is military dictator Rear Admiral Frank Bainimarama. He has swapped his uniform for a suit and shed his military role as he prepares to contest the election, but his efforts have generated court actions for alleged breaches of the election process.

After the election Fiji could be entitled to rejoin the club of Commonwealth Oceania states: Australia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Regal tour sets the standard

The whirlwind tour of New Zealand and Australia by The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and their son George last month is scored as an outstanding success by both Commonwealth nations.

Their last function, before departing for Britain was their presence at a ceremony at the Australian War Memorial marking the 99th anniversary of the ill-fated Allied troop landing on Turkey's Gallipoli Peninsula.

The fact that baby George Alexander Louis cried as the family boarded a Royal Australian Air Force plane at Canberra airport after the formal farewell by Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove, was universally interpreted as a cry to stay in southern climes – and an assurance he will return.

This 10-day Australia visit has taken William, the second in line for the British throne, to the cities of Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide as well as the Outback sandstone monolith Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock. In nine days before, in New Zealand the royal couple, among other things, raced in separate America's Cup yachts in Auckland Harbor (in which skippering by the Duchess bested the Duke); jet-boated up the Shotover River near at Queenstown; attended Maori events of honor, welcome and entertainment (adjusted in one case to avoid the prospect of bare-breasted Maori dancers performing for the royal couple).

Shark cull opposition

Only four per cent of those surveyed at Sydney's Aquarium believed sharks should be killed. The question was asked last month after a woman was killed while swimming with her husband south of Sydney. Meanwhile, in the west, where attacks are more common, the largest shark culling drive in the world was under way.

This year, for the first time, concerted efforts have been made to catch sharks off the shore of Western Australia and to shoot

the biggest of them. The state has applied for permission to continue the program for another three years – but it's a divisive policy with many bitter critics.

Newspapers carried the story of Elyse Frankcom, 22, who was diving with dolphins in the vast waters of Western Australia in 2010 when the jaws of an 11-foot great white shark clamped around her legs.

"It just hit me," she recalled. She was violently pulled down from the surface. "I tried to punch and push it. I reached down to my foot and switched on my shark shield. That is the last thing I remember doing."

The shield, which emits an electrical field is designed to repel sharks, probably forced the attacker to release its grip. But Ms Frankcom sank unconscious. However, a tourist dived to retrieve her, hauling her bleeding to the surface and shore.

It took Frankcom months of physiotherapy to learn to walk again. Yet Ms Frankcom is one of thousands of Australians protesting against Western Australia's controversial shark culling.

The lines went up on Jan. 25, and the first shark was killed the following day (Australia Day) with four bullets to the head. So far, more than 100 sharks have been snared.

21% rise in teen booze crashes warrants lowering age limit

A Massey University study has found that the risk of 18- and 19-year-olds being injured in alcohol related vehicle crashes has risen by 21% since the drinking age was lowered from 20 to 18 in 1999.

As a result of the new research, Students Against Drink Driving calls the results upsetting and disturbing.

SADD chief executive Anna Braidwood said the group feels it would be wrong to ignore the research and is calling for the legislation governing the drinking age to be reviewed again.

The organization has always supported a higher drinking age.

China building spy network in Australian universities

Australia is strengthening its counter-intelligence capabilities after learning that China is reportedly building covert informant networks inside Australia's top universities.

Fairfax Media reports that Chinese intelligence officials say they are building networks to monitor the ethnic Chinese community to protect Beijing's core interests.

But the AFIO (Association of Former Intelligence Officers), consisting mainly of

retired US CIA people, reported in its AFIO Weekly Intelligence Notes last month that a lot of foreign monitoring work takes place in higher education institutions.

And that that foreign intelligence operatives were at work in Sydney and Melbourne universities. There more than 90,000 students from mainland China are potentially exposed to ideas and activities not readily available at home.

AFIO is a U.S. non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization founded in 1975 by David Atlee.

Canada stops Commonwealth funding

Canada says it is suspending voluntary funding to the Commonwealth Secretariat.

It's prompted, Ottawa says, as a response to the fact that chairmanship of the Commonwealth is held by Sri Lanka, which has an unacceptable rights record in conflict with nearly all the Commonwealth human rights principles that are a basis of membership in the 53-nation body.

Explaining the position, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said Sri Lanka had failed to take meaningful action on human rights and political reconciliation promised at the end of the 26 years of Tamil civil war in 2009.

The decision comes five months after the Prime Minister boycotted the November 2013 Commonwealth heads of government meeting (CHOGM) in Colombo because of concerns about Sri Lanka's human-rights record.

Canada said it would instead direct its \$10-million in annual voluntary funding during the remainder of Sri Lanka's term as chair, to other Commonwealth programs.

Sri Lanka responds that Canada is using its funding as a political tool because it believes Canada is the home to one of the largest Tamil communities in the world.

The UN Human Rights Council has reported Colombo had failed to credibly investigate past human-rights violations and recommended an independent international inquiry.

Murray Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; a member of the Advisory Board of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; and a director of the The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism. Murray Burt writes this Commonwealth column to raise sensitivities to its value and lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world.

Goan halibut Coconut curry

Goan Halibut Coconut Curry

This dish was enjoyed by many at our ANZAC event and is shared by Betsy Burt.

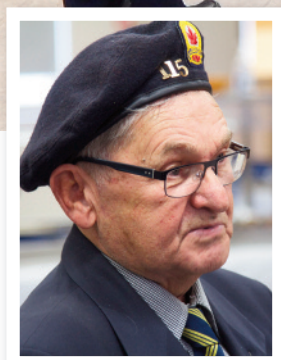
From *Chatelaine* magazine last year.

- 1 tbsp veg oil
- 1 – 2 lbs fish fillets ½ inch thick sliced in 1 inch pieces
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 onion finely chopped
- 2 serrano peppers, seeded & thinly sliced
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 tsp garam masala
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 6 -7 fresh curry leaves
- 1 can coconut milk
- for garnish ¼ c chopped cilantro



Instructions:

1. Heat oil. Season fish with salt. Cook until golden 2 min per side. Save on plate.
2. In same fry pan, add onion and cook until golden 2 mins, add peppers and spices. Stir until onion is well coated. Add tomato and stir until almost soft 2 mins. Add vinegar, curry leaves and coconut milk. Reduce heat and simmer until sauce thickens – about 5 mins. Season with salt if needed.
3. Return fish and any juices to sauce and continue cooking until heated through.
4. Garnish with cilantro and serve over rice.



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