

The Southern Yarn

September 2014

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.



downundercalendar

SEPTEMBER

Wine, Cheese & Games

Saturday September 27th, 7:00 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St.

Come and reconnect with friends, old and new, and share summer adventures over a board game and a glass.

OCTOBER

Formal Dinner

Saturday October 25th, 6pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St.

This is a new venue for us for this popular event, but the fine dining will still be a feature - Bonne Cuisine by Michael will be providing the culinary artistry. See p. 6 for details. The exec decided to try something new this year to help make this fun occasion more accessible to more members and friends, so please INVITE YOUR FRIENDS to join us.

NOVEMBER

Annual General Meeting

Friday November 28th, 2014

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St.

Details to follow..

DECEMBER

Christmas Social

Details to follow..

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.

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.



DUCW past president Terry Roberts at the annual golf tournament.

The DUCW golf tournament

August 9th was the date of this year's annual DUCW Golf Tournament. The usual crowd, plus some extras, gathered at The Players course on a nice day, to either play 9 or 18 holes in their golf round. We had a good mix of golfers as usual, from the once a year players, to the every weekend player. It is a good format for the average golfers in our group. No one really burned up the course, but everyone enjoyed them-

selves. At the presentation on the clubhouse patio after the game, the following prizes were awarded.

The golf bag:

Closest to the pin: **Geoff Ashworth**

Longest drive: **Jason Davidson**

(The ball had to be rocket powered)

Low 9-hole score: **Jason Davidson**

Low 18 hole score: **Peter Debenham**

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day – we're back – just like the end of Summer [sad face].

Knowing that day has to come, Judy and I tried to enjoy as much of the last few months as we could, while the weather was half decent. Had a great visit to the "new" Zoo – the Polar Bears, Butterflies and Wolves didn't disappoint; took in a couple of Folklorama pavilions, including the new UK one – it was a neat idea to feature sheep and sheepdogs outside; enjoyed a week in Montreal – almost like a visit to Europe – better! We also still managed to fit in our usual social lawn bowls and lots of gardening and reading; installed a "Little Free Library" on the back fence; enjoyed the Club's Pool Party and Golf events; and spent a few hours on Labor Day enjoying Assiniboine Park – what a gem that is, especially the English Garden! Winnipeg has so much going for it – Canada's heart beats, indeed!

Hopefully you will send in some Letters to the Editor to share some of your stories, adventures, news, recommended books to read...

As mentioned recently, Gordon Keatch is retiring from his "Getting to know" column in The Yarn. What a huge contribution that has been over the years! Over a hundred member interviews that have helped us all get to know each other, (not to mention helping the Yarn editor with good content). So, as a fitting finale, this month we're Getting to know GK, thanks to Jenny Gates, p. 4.

Another huge contribution each month continues to be Murray Burt's Commonwealth Corner (p. 5) – a valuable and interesting summary of doings in the "family" – thanks again, Murray!

Enjoy!

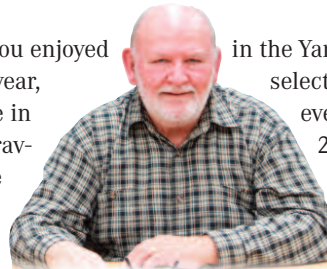
Hello again, I hope you enjoyed your summer this year, whether spent here in Winnipeg, at the lake, or travelling around the province or cross-country.

There has been a lot of warm weather and rain, sometimes at the same time, but that is Manitoba. We were at a wedding in Souris this past weekend, and some of our host's prime agricultural fields, are either covered by bulrushes, water, or weeds, and have been for three years straight, since the floods and rain of 2011. One business near there recorded 9 inches of rain over the past 12 days. So say a word for the farmers. The wedding was of a local girl, one of Margaret relatives, who succumbed to the charms of a Kiwi bee-keeper some years back, and they returned from living in NZ earlier this year to settle in Souris. There were 15 kiwis that came over for the wedding, and the reception was lively. Interpreters were required for the speeches.

The club has events planned for the balance of the year, and we are having the club dinner this year in The Scandinavian Club clubrooms, catered by an excellent group that caters the Friday night dinners at the Scandinavian Club. Details are elsewhere

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



in the Yarn, including the menu we have selected. **IMPORTANT NOTE** for this event, you must call Margaret at 204 237-1805 by Wednesday October 15th to reserve your place for the dinner. Don't miss out on this evening.

Another important event for the club is the Annual General Meeting in November. I know we don't get a great attendance at these, but I would strongly request that some members take up a challenge to join the committee this year, to give a break to the few that always seem to do all the work. We do need some new blood, and new ideas.

Games, wine, cheese

Coming up shortly, on **September 27th**, at 7pm, is a Games night/Wine and cheese gathering at the Scandinavian Club. There will board games for use by everyone, or bring your personal favorite. Wine and cheese will be supplied by the club, come along for a relaxing social evening. Terry is looking for some Texas Hold'em partners.

Peter



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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience



The six-year old Tasmanian merino ram's wool weighed 23.5kg.

Shaun the sheep finally shorn

[theguardian.com] After six years on the lam across Tasmania, Shaun the sheep has been shorn.

The fleecy fugitive faced the clippers after he was found wandering on the property of farmers Peter and Netty Hazell, and shot to international acclaim. The six-year old merino ram's wool came in at 23.5kg, just short of another ram, Shrek, who spent just as long evading shearers in New Zealand until he was captured in 2004. His coat weighed in at a staggering 27kg.

Shaun's clipping took 20 minutes, about ten times longer than average.

"He will go to our spoilt paddock and probably do a few guest appearances around the state," said Netty. His fleece would also go on tour, she added.

Once the fleece's fame dims, Guardian Australia has calculated that it could be used to produce at least 35 jumpers. [More online.]



The Australian Made Campaign launches in South Australia

The Australian Made Campaign, the organisation that administers and promotes Australia's country-of-origin certification trade mark, is launching in South Australia.

"Australian Made is proud to announce a new partnership with Business SA," Australian Made Campaign Chairman, Glenn Cooper said. "It will provide the South Aus-

tralian business community with access to a local resource for information about the Australian Made, Australian Grown logo. "SA is a hub for manufacturing and growing in Australia, and this initiative will help to promote and support local industry." [More online.]



Ark supervisor Adrian Good and Tassie devil Princess Mary / Pic: Mandy Kennedy, Herald Sun

Genetic diversity gives hope to Tassie devils

From her home in New South Wales, a young Tasmanian devil is providing fresh hope for the long-term survival of her species.

The two-year-old female is the most recent recruit to Devil Ark – a 500ha devil breeding facility in the mist-shrouded hills of the Barrington Tops, 300km north-west of Sydney.

Nicknamed Princess Mary, this devil is the most genetically diverse female in the breeding program and she is an important link in the genetic chain that is safeguarding her species from extinction.

[More online.]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Men and women of Great War remembered

New Zealand 100 years ago seems like a foreign country to our modern eyes. Ever the loyal dominion of the British Empire, we entered the Great War on August 5, 1914. This first international, industrial-scale war transformed the country – 100,000 men and 550 women from a total population of 1 million served overseas. But in the next five



years, historians, educators and story-tellers are keen that today's New Zealanders understand what that meant for our people. The events and exhibitions are running through September.

Many activities are designed for youngsters – a generation that has revived the interest in the annual Anzac commemorations at Gallipoli – and to celebrate the humanity and stories of the 18,000 dead, the 41,000 wounded, their comrades, and the lives of the families left behind. [More online.]



Kiwis reduce sheep 'emissions'

The world is a step closer to a low-emission sheep, thanks to leading work by Kiwi and US researchers.

Methane belched from sheep and other ruminants, such as cows, accounts for around 28 per cent of global methane emissions from human-related activities.

The methane is produced in the rumen by microbes called methanogens and the work targeting these organisms is aimed at reducing methane emissions. New Zealand has a methane emission rate six times the global average, primarily from enteric fermentation in ruminant livestock, with sheep the greatest single source.

Scientists are focusing on microbial differences in the sheep rumens. [More online.]

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Gordon Keatch

One of our favourite people, Gordon Keatch, has retired as our intrepid “getting to know” columnist. In his letter of retirement, Gord wrote that his monthly column in *The Southern Yarn* about getting to know members was “a most rewarding and interesting experience”.

We are looking for someone to take over the column, but first we thought we’d let you all “get to know” Gord a little better.

Originally from Melbourne, Australia, Gordon “Kangaroo” Keatch came to Canada in December 1943 when he began military training as a wireless/air gunner under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP). More about this part of his story and how he met his wife Anne is featured in the book “Canada’s War Grooms and the Girls who Stole Their Hearts” by Judy Kozar.

In Gord’s words, “The most exciting part of the war for me was the time spent in Winnipeg because I met my wife there.” Love soon blossomed, and when Gord returned to Australia, Anne followed, and they were married there on November 23, 1946.

“Anne’s parents were devastated, of course, as they thought they would never see their daughter again. My family, on the other hand, was ecstatic, and they were delighted and charmed by this Canadian girl who came all the way to Australia to marry me.”

Two years later, Gord and Anne moved back to Winnipeg. “It was now my mother’s turn to be the disappointed parent.”

Gord will tell anyone who asks that moving to Winnipeg was the best thing he ever did. It was here that he and Anne raised two sons and became active in the local community.

For 33 years, Gord worked for local machinery-manufacturing firm Kipp Kelly Ltd., and became involved with many commitments and interests, including the St James School Board, the Niakwa Country Club, and the Manitoba Theatre Centre. Anne was busy volunteering at the Silver Heights Community Club, and later the Manitoba Lung Association and Manitoba Head Injury Association.

As co-founder of the DUCW and president for 49 years, Gord guided the club from humble beginnings to a welcome resource

for Aussies and Kiwis who move to and travel through the province. In Gord’s words, “the Down Under Club has become an active, long-standing and popular group here in Winnipeg and throughout Manitoba. We are proud to have been a part of this city and province ... and have enjoyed fostering Australian, New Zealand and Canadian relations”

Gord and Anne always seemed to be doing something in the Club, including hosting informal get togethers, and organising, attending and volunteering at many events and activities. As our way of saying thanks for their enormous contribution, they were awarded the first DUCW Life Memberships in 2000. Indeed, they were such a constant part of the Club that when Anne passed away in December 2006, we all mourned the loss of a gentle soul and a dear friend.

Among his many contributions to the DUCW, Gord also took the time to document and update our history (his latest installment is coming soon), look after the Club’s finances, do the audits, recruit new members, incorporate the DUCW, play the role of newsletter editor’s editor, mail the *Yarn*, and organise, in particular, the annual ANZAC Day commemoration.

Gord also played a significant role in our first Folklorama pavilion. Peter Debenham remembered the meeting he was at with Gord and Lucia Barron at The Round Table on Halloween in 1992. “We didn’t think we had the resources – people or capital or know how – but the zoo had an



Aussie exhibit and we jumped on the bandwagon, deciding ‘If ever we’re going to do it, it’s now!’”

In the hearts and minds of many, Gord’s most enduring legacy will be the “getting to know” column that he has championed since September 2006. By showcasing approximately 150 members, he has definitely helped us get to know each other a little better.

By all accounts, Gord is a true gentleman who is loved and respected for his generous nature, kind heart, relentless community spirit, and willingness to step up and help out. He might be retiring from journalism, but there’s no doubt that Gord will be kept busy enough with his many interests and activities, his good friends, and his close-knit family, which now includes three grandchildren (Allison, Erin and Michael) and two great-grandsons (Ethan and Liam), with a great-granddaughter arriving in mid-December.

There is much more to Gord’s story, but I’m sure he would prefer to tell you himself when you chat with him at the next DUCW event.

Cheers to you, mate!
Jenny Gates.

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Time to smile in Suva, as Fiji votes to return to international Commonwealth grace

Fiji spirits and ambition rise as Sept. 17 election nears – so South Pacific braces for shift in power balance

International sanctions have been lifted against Fiji, relationships with Pacific islands neighbors are being restored, and refurbishment of the parliament building is under way.

All are helping contribute to the palpable mood of optimism in Fiji as it gears up for the Sept 17 election, the first since the military coup of 2006.

The actions of military rulers since 2006 have made the gorgeous island state something of a pariah in those troublesome years, but it has not been without a positive or two. Notably, new national friends are on scene. They will undoubtedly continue to expand Fiji's international trade prospects – prospects which had suffered when Australia and New Zealand had severed ties. China is a new friend in the South Pacific and Fiji will continue to build on this.

Fiji's possible return to the fold of the Pacific Islands Forum, the region's preeminent inter-governmental organization of independent nations of the Pacific, has been a top topic in recent months. Fiji was suspended from the Forum in May 2009, after it failed to meet the deadline set by the regional group to hold democratic elections in the country. So the election is a new start.

It's a return to diplomatic respectability. The voting was called for less than a month after revolt leader Frank Bainimarama resigned as military chief – ostensibly so he could contest the polls and run for Prime Minister. Bainimarama had led the coup that unseated democratically-elected PM Laisenia Qarase in December 2006.

The country had experienced four coups between 1987 and 2006, largely driven by the racial and economic divide among native Fijians and Indian-Asian descendants of immigrants brought to labor in the British-owned plantations in the 19th century.

The Commonwealth, a coalition of 53 formerly Brit colonies, fully suspended Fiji's membership in 2009, after the military government refused to call an election by 2010. – With files from Business Week and BBC

Canberra-Jakarta become friends again after snarky spying row

Australia and Indonesia are "sweet" again. They have agreed to put a damaging spy row behind them, on the way back to full defense cooperation. Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced the new deal last month.

Ties sank to their lowest point in years in November after reports that Australian spies tried to tap the phones of Indonesia's outgoing President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his inner circle.

Emirates Team New Zealand contesting next America's Cup

An Emirates Team New Zealand challenge is in place in San Francisco for sailing the 35th America's Cup, place and date to be confirmed.

Out-going Kiwi Commodore Steve Burrett announced the decision at the Squadron's annual meeting in Auckland last month. The RNZ Yacht Squadron has been involved with all but one NZ America's Cup campaign since 1987, winning at San Diego in 1995 and successfully defending at Auckland in 2000.

Emirates Team New Zealand CEO Grant Dalton says the team is pleased to challenge with the confidence of being able to represent the country well. "This is the official start of a long, hard journey. We do not under-estimate the challenges ahead," he said.

The island of Bermuda and the city of San Diego have been shortlisted as potential host cities for the 35th America's Cup. Chicago, which had also been under consideration, is now a likely venue for America's Cup World Series racing in 2015 and 2016. Both Bermuda and San Diego have made very compelling cases to be the host for the next America's Cup.

A decade of NZ great white shark research nears end with fine results

A joint 10-year NIWA and Department of Conservation project to find out more about the great white sharks that inhabit New Zealand waters is coming to an end as scientists tackle the final phases of data analysis.

NIWA is NZ's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd and is its leading environmental science and applied research service provider. It specializes in atmospheric, freshwater and marine research.

And its fisheries scientist and shark expert Dr Malcolm Francis is one of several scientists who have spent the past decade

following and tagging great whites.

This shark is a protected species. Its movements in Oceania has been tracked since 2005, and 95 of them have been tagged. This has been done mainly at the Chatham Islands and Stewart Island and some surprising discoveries have been made. Some of the shark findings: –Habitat (from NZ) extends from south of Stewart Island latitudes to the tropics, depending on season. They spend more time out of NZ waters than in. – On migrations, they average about 5km/h or 100 km/day, but have done up to 150km a day. – Australian Great Whites stick to the east and west coasts on their migrations and rarely travel far out to sea. –Juveniles inhabit shallow coastal waters and harbors around New Zealand, feeding mainly on fish. Once they grow to about 3 m long, they begin to feed on marine mammals and tend to aggregate near seal colonies.

Former Oz MP was a KGB informant, opposed to Aussie Vietnam role

Openly critical of the United States in world affairs of the 1960s and 70s, Albert James, a former Australian Labor member of parliament representing Hunter, is now described in newly released intelligence archives in Britain as a secret KGB Informant.

AFIO weekly intelligence notes say James is listed as an informant of the Soviet intelligence service in the papers of former KGB archivist and defector Vasili Mitrokhin. These were released by the Churchill College Archive in Britain last month.

A former NSW policeman and left-wing MP, he served in federal Parliament from 1960 to 1980. He is one of a number of Australians recorded in Mitrokhin's list of KGB agents and informants active in Australia during the 1960s and 1970s.

James died at 92 in 2006. Mitrokhin's notes do not divulge what information James may have passed to the Russians, but they do confirm his status as an KGB informant, albeit with the insecure code-name of "Albert," according to the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Murray Burt writes this Commonwealth column to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world that doesn't get the news attention it deserves. There has been much significant Commonwealth news in the past month — Nigeria, South Africa, India, Pakistan — but how often did the media identify them as Commonwealth? Sad shortcoming. Enjoy.

Please join us on Saturday, October 25, 2014
at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre for our catered dinner.

Arrival and bar at 6 PM.
Dinner at 6:30

Down Under Club *Annual Formal Dinner*

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, Winnipeg

Mixed Field Greens with Shaved Jicama & Fresh Berries, sherry vinaigrette

•
Roasted Ballotine of Free Range **Chicken**
stuffed with Cognac soaked dried cranberries,
fresh basil & delicate chicken mousse served with
an organic honey and apple thyme jus

or
Rack of Lamb en Croute with Shiitake Mushroom Duxelle
served with a Port wine and fig demi-glaze

Seasonal Potatoes & Colorful Array of Fresh Vegetables

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Dessert: Espresso Crème Brûlée served with fresh fruits

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**RSVP by 15th October: call Margaret Munn 204-237-1805
and indicate your choice of the Chicken or Lamb.**



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