

The Southern Yarn

November 2014



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

NOVEMBER

Annual General Meeting

Friday November 28th, 2014, 7 PM

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. Consider taking a turn on the executive – all positions are up for grabs – or just turn up and lend your support to those who keep the cogs turning. It is a good forum for raising suggestions for Club Events or to catch up with mates. The Bar will be open and snacks will be supplied.

DECEMBER

Christmas Bingo Bowl Social

Sunday December 7th, 2014, 5 – 8pm

Windsor Bowling Lanes

Pizza will be provided by the Club. Santa is expected, so contact Margaret Munn by November 30th with childrens' names (12yrs and under). Note: **SUNDAY**, not Saturday.

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.

More photos from the Formal dinner:



The annual DUCW formal dinner.

Photos: Hydesmith

Annual Not-so-Formal Dinner

All our hopes and expectations for this event were surpassed: 36 folk, including a tableful of General Monash members, enjoyed a very well presented spread! Tables were set in the lower hall at the SCC and gave an immediate indication of the fine dining to come. White tablecloths, centrepiece roses, wine glasses and menu cards were complemented by the friendly welcome by Chef Michael's staff.

As all were served their meal choice, they also received a free glass of wine, compliments of the DUCW, after which the bar was open. Both the roasted ballotine of free range

chicken stuffed with cognac soaked dried cranberries, fresh basil and delicate chicken mousse with an organic honey and apple thyme jus and the rack of lamb en croûte with shiitake mushroom duxelle served with a port wine and fig demi-glaze were scrumptious! Dessert was espresso crème brûlée served with fresh fruits. There was unanimous acclaim for the success and enjoyment of the evening and this was conveyed to the culinary staff with a sincere thank you by President Peter Munn and a round of applause by all.

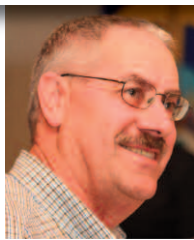
Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of members of the Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc., will be held on **Friday, November 28th** at 7:00 pm, at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre at 764 Erin Street, Winnipeg.

Agenda: Roll Call — Secretary's Report — Committee Reports — Election of Officers — Other Business — Close of AGM

Election: All Club members in good standing are eligible to put their names forward for any position on the Board: President — Vice President — Treasurer — Secretary — Social Coordinator — Membership — Newsletter Editor

If you are interested and willing to take on any of these positions, contact Gordon Keatch at 204-832-4405, or attend the meeting and let your name stand.



online



find us on facebook or the web

www.downunderclub.mb.ca

email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,

Well, it seems we have hit upon a quality and affordable format for the Annual Dinner! Although it was at our familiar SCC, on the 25th of last month it was transformed into a classy restaurant serving fine cuisine and allowing a good number of DUCW members and friends to enjoy themselves in style. Great job Chef Michael!

100 years ago thousands of young recruits from New Zealand and Australia embarked on troop ships and sailed into WW1 action. There have been various commemorations all year, and no doubt next year's ANZAC Day will prove particularly memorable in both our homeland countries. This month's *Yarn* includes a few more reminders of that history.

This month we get to know Matthew Flinders – an accomplished navigator who died prematurely 200 years ago at the age of only 41. His story is one of commitment, moral courage, determination and sacrifice.

Thanks to all club members who contributed to this month's issue.

Enjoy



Former Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam dead at 98

Read all about Gough online.

Hello again,
Into November, and the leaves are mainly gone from the trees, but still too many on my lawn. The companies that sell garden waste bags for 40 cents apiece in Winnipeg must be making a fortune. And talking of making a fortune, the candy makers certainly have a great harvest time at Halloween. They all sell giant boxes now, and by the size of some of the stuffed pillow cases that came to our house last night with the trick and treaters, a lot of candy was being sold.

Our (not so formal) formal dinner was enjoyed by the 36 members and friends that attended. The dinner prepared by Bonne Cuisine was excellent, service was



president's ramblings

Peter Munn

elegant and efficient, and most importantly, everyone had a good time. It seemed to be a consensus that we should return again for next year.

On a more serious note, we have the Annual General Meeting upcoming on Friday 28th November. The club has had the same small group of people running things for a long time, and we really need the membership to step up and offer to help on the committee. The commitment is not overwhelming, and there are a lot of experienced hands to help. Gordon Keatch will be running the formal side of the meeting, so call him at 204 832-4405, or myself (204 237-1805), and tell us you would like to help.

Peter

Australian Made urges consumers to 'get behind our Aussie logo'

The Australian Made Campaign is calling on consumers to get behind 'our Aussie logo' – the green-and-gold kangaroo that certifies products and produce as genuinely Australian Made or Australian Grown, in a national campaign.

The Australian Made, Australian Grown (AMAG) logo is the country's only registered country-of-origin certification trade mark across the full range of Australian products and produce.

[More online.] Sophie Langley



Don't delay, book your winter vacation today!

WINNIPEG TO AUCKLAND RETURN C\$1,954

Travel validity: Jan 25 – Sept. 21, 2015 Book by: Nov. 17

WINNIPEG TO SYDNEY RETURN C\$1,975

Travel validity: Feb 1 – Apr 30, 2015 Book by: Nov 18

3-FOR-1 DEAL – COOK ISLANDS, NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA C\$2,138 p/p*

Travel Feb 1 – Mar 15, 2015 Book by Nov 30*

AUSTRALIA – 11 DAYS – SYDNEY, CAIRNS & MELBOURNE PACKAGE C\$4,971 p/p

Includes: Roundtrip airfare, Accommodation, Tour, Transfers, Great Barrier Reef Cruise

Travel Feb 1 - Mar 31

Book by Nov 30

*Based on availability and subject to change. Prices are per person, with double occupancy. Taxes, surcharge, and service fees included.

FRENCH POLYNESIA – 7 DAYS BREATHTAKING BORA BORA PACKAGE C\$4,971 p/p

Includes roundtrip airfare, accommodation, and transfers.*

Travel Nov 1 - Mar 31 Book by Nov 30

Canadian dollars. All taxes and service fees included in pricing of Airfares and Air-inclusive packages. Subject to change & availability.

Downunder TRAVEL

(403) 270-4414 Phone

1-866-470-4414 Toll Free

info@downunder-travel.com

114, 3907 3A St NE, Calgary T2E 6S7 • www.downunder-travel.com

More than 40 years' South Pacific experience



Perth Mint honours Anzacs with silver coin

A limited number of silver coins marking 100 years since Australia's first fleet of military ships departed Albany to fight in World War I have been released by the Perth Mint.

The coin features two ships, a list of the 39 vessels that set sail from the port, two short inscriptions and a red poppy motif.

Only 1914 Anzac Spirit 100th Anniversary Coin Series - First Convoy coins will be released.

About 30,000 troops from the Australian Imperial Force and New Zealand Expeditionary Force, as well as about 8000 horses, departed from King George Sound in Albany on November 1, 1914.

Perth Mint spokesman Ron Currie said Albany played a significant role in the story of the Anzacs and said the Perth Mint was proud to honour the troops with a coin tribute.

The piece will be available for \$63.50 from the Albany Australian Post Office, the Albany Visitor Centre, the National Anzac Centre and the Perth Mint. [More online]

1914 Honour & Valour

Raise a Glass and Show Your Support. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to True Patriot Love Foundation and the Royal Canadian Legion. [See more online]



A Tribute to Great Canadians Then and Now.



Passengers aboard Driving Creek Railway's Possum train emerge from a tunnel.

Coromandel: A whimsical ride

There's a tract of hilly land above Coromandel Town that the Department of Conservation might want to keep a careful eye on.

It abuts the 60-acre (24ha) property that's home to the wonderfully whimsical Driving Creek Railway - renowned New Zealand potter Barry Brickell's decades-long labour of love.

What began in 1975 as a purely practical endeavour to transport clay dug from the land's hills to Brickell's workshop, soon morphed into a project of ever-increasing scale.

As Paul Swanwick, a former local policeman who now drives the trains, explains, Brickell "found he rather enjoyed the laying of the track and knew he had 60 acres to fill up, so he decided to continue."

Three kilometres of track, three patient bank managers and 28 years later, Brickell reached the boundary of his land.

[more online]

NZ to vote on flag design change in the next two years

Kiwis will vote twice between now and 2016 about whether NZ should change its flag. The government said that next year; voters would choose their favored alternative flag from among several options. Then, in 2016 they will vote on whether that alternative should replace the current flag.

The moves will fulfil a promise made by

PM John Key during the last election that he would institute a flag change vote.

Some feel the current flag (the Southern Cross star constellation with the UK's Union Jack in the top left corner) lacks distinction.

Key made it clear he favors a change. "I believe that this is the right time for New Zealanders to consider changing the design to one that better reflects our status as a modern, independent nation,"

He said during the election in September he favored a new flag with a silver fern set against a black background. Since then, however, he has changed his mind to favor of a different color for the background. Key estimated the two votes would cost about \$26 million.

- Murray Burt



Epic NZ flight safety video

As the official airline of Middle-earth, Air New Zealand has gone all out to celebrate the third and final film in The Hobbit Trilogy - *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*. Starring Elijah Wood. [More online.] and [more].

They have apparently done a few of these creative presentations - here is another, fronted by celebrity adventurer Bear Grylls, with the Routeburn Great Walk as its backdrop, showcasing two national parks - Mount Aspiring and Fiordland - and their magnificent alpine scenery: [Online.]

Kiwi Installations & sales
kiwiinstallations.com

- Roll-up Security Shutters, ◦
- decks, fences and more. ◦
- Free in-home/cottage estimates. ◦
- ◦

Call Terry 204-229-6642 or 204-663-6549

Matthew Flinders (1774-1814)

Raised in Lincolnshire, where men usually turned to agriculture for a livelihood, Matthew Flinders showed originality by choosing the sea. Flinders was born on 16 March 1774 at Donington, Lincolnshire. From a family of doctors, Flinders was expected to take up the same profession, but inspired by reports of Cook's discoveries, and the reading of Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe, he decided to go to sea.

Flinders began his naval career at the age of fifteen, on the HMS Alert. The following year he sailed with Captain Bligh on the Providence to Tahiti and honed his navigation skills. In 1795 he sailed in the Reliance to the new convict settlement at Botany Bay. On board Flinders befriended George Bass, of similar intrepid nature. With Bass, Flinders made a number of small boat journeys and refined the charts of the New South Wales coast. In 1798 Flinders and Bass set out in the Norfolk to explore the extent of the strait between the mainland and Van Diemen's Land [Tasmania]. By circumnavigating Van Diemen's Land, Flinders proved that it was a separate island.

Next Flinders sailed to Cape of Good Hope to obtain livestock for New South Wales. It was on this trip that Flinders acquired his cat Trim. After further exploration in the new colony, he returned home to England to put his proposal to explore the entire coast of Terra Australis to Sir Joseph Banks, who had great influence with the British Admiralty. By February 1801 the ambitious Flinders had been given command of the Investigator for this voyage of discovery, which was scheduled to take four years.

During the weeks that the Investigator was fitted out for the voyage, Flinders married Ann Chappell on 17 April 1801. They had hoped to travel together, but this was not allowed, and so Flinders set sail without Ann, little knowing that they would not meet again for almost nine years.

The Investigator reached Cape Leeuwin on 6 December 1801. Sailing eastwards, Flinders first charted the unknown southern coastline, unexpectedly encountering

Baudin and the French expedition, and arriving in Port Jackson in May 1802. After refitting the ship, he continued his anticlockwise circumnavigation up the eastern coast and to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

In November, examination of the Investigator found that much of its timbers were rotting. Further repairs allowed the Investigator to keep sailing, but by March 1803 the ship was in such poor condition, and the crew in ill-health, the survey was halted. The Investigator visited Timor for supplies, and then returned to Port Jackson down the west coast and across the Great Australian Bight. In reaching Port Jackson, he had completed the journey around the southern continent.

Less than two years into the expedition, it was found that the vessel was rotten beyond repair. Flinders decided to return to England to obtain another ship in which he could continue the coastal survey. He sailed for home in the small sloop Porpoise, which ran aground on a reef off the coast of Queensland. After recovering the crew - no small feat of sailing and rowing the ship's cutter back to Port Jackson to get help - Flinders again set sail for England, this time in the Cumberland.

The Cumberland was too small for the voyage and leaked extensively, so Flinders was forced to put in at Ile de France [Mauri-

tius], hoping to find a vessel to take him back home. War had resumed between England and France, and Flinders was held prisoner on the island for 6½ years. During this time, Flinders worked on his papers and charts. Sadly, Flinders' companion cat Trim disappeared.

In October 1810 Flinders finally returned home to England and Ann. Their daughter Anne was born in 1812. Flinders spent four years writing the three volumes of A voyage to Terra Australis. He died in 1814 at forty years of age, the day after his account was published.

Flinders has been described as one of the world's most accomplished navigators and hydrographers. He also contributed to the science of navigation, including research on tide action, and compass deviation due to the

presence of iron in ships. Ill health, homesickness and loneliness did not deter him from his focus on his goals. His essay about his much loved cat Trim gives us an insight into the very human side of the man who was the first to circumnavigate Australia, prove it was one continent, create a definitive chart of its coastline, and so pave the way for colonisation.

[for more detailed biographies, see: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/flinders-matthew-2050> and <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/encounter/flinders/bio.htm>]



Law services at your place of convenience

WM. B.K. POOLEY B.A. L.L.B
LAWYER · NOTARY PUBLIC

home visits · office visits
day, evening & weekend appointments

204-783-1632





Russia's President Vladimir Putin, left, and Australia's PM Tony Abbott sit side by side at a retreat session of APEC Summit in Indonesia — AFP/Getty Images

Australia PM to 'shirtfront' Putin at G20 meeting

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott says he will use an upcoming G20 leaders summit to confront Russian President Vladimir Putin. Abbott a most strident critic of Russia's handling of the aftermath of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 and the "murder" of Australian citizens.

Evidence suggesting that the jetliner was blown from the sky by pro-Russian separatists armed with surface-to-air missiles provided by the Kremlin have led to calls in Australia to bar Putin from the world leaders summit in Brisbane on Nov. 15 and 16.

"I'm going to be saying to Mr Putin, Australians were murdered and they were murdered by Russian-backed rebels using Russian supplied equipment."

Abbott said that it was not within Australia's power to ban a G20 member from attending, but he promised to give Putin a stern talking to.

"Look, I'm going to shirtfront Mr Putin — you bet I am," Abbott told reporters, using an Australian Rules Football term meaning to body hit someone front on, chest to chest, and knock them to the ground.

"I'm going to be saying to Mr Putin, Australians were murdered by Russian-backed rebels using Russian supplied equipment," he said.

The Boeing 777 was shot down in July in eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 passengers and crew on board.

Scotiabank optimistic on Caribbean recovery

The Commonwealth Caribbean has a friend in Scotiabank despite many of the host

islands' records of unnervingly weak economic recoveries in those sunny climes.

Chief executive officer Brian Porter rejects the suggestion that Scotiabank's international business was sputtering, but acknowledges flat revenue numbers are being skewed by the Caribbean's failure to rebound from the financial crisis. He cites the stunningly weak economic recoveries in places such as Jamaica, Belize and Puerto Rico

Quarterly profit from Scotiabank's operations outside of Canada has been stuck at around \$410-million for the past year and the weak recoveries are a factor. The IMF predicts economic conditions will improve only marginally in the region this year and next.

Source: G&M, CP

Pakistan Taliban trio sprung in attack, killed when cornered

Three Taliban Pakistan activists were shot dead by police in Mauza Bakhri, Uch Sharif, in an early morning encounter with the police after being freed by accomplices but subsequently cornered.

The three Taliban— Qari Nazeer Ahmed, Ehsan and Ghulam Hassan — had been under investigation and were in the custody of Naushera Jadid police when six armed accomplices of the trio attacked the police station and freed them.

Police patrols gave chase and Uch Sharif police succeeded in encircling them in Mauza Bakhri, where the three activists were killed in the police shootout.

The Taliban killed a police constable and volunteer who were on security duty during Taraveeh prayers.

NEW GUINEA VOLCANO BASTS

Mount Tavurvur, on an island of the Bismarck Archipelago, northeast of Papua-New Guinea, drastically spews its molten innards skyward after eruption late in September. The phenomenon continued last month forcing the evacuation of some communities in the quae prone region, and forcing some regional and international flights to divert. The volcano is one of the most active in the area. In 1994, activity destroyed the town of Rabaul when it erupted simultaneously with nearby Mount Vulcan.

Source: Jason Tassell/AP

Singapore protest is no HK

There have been two mass rallies in Asia in recent weeks aimed earnestly at intransigent government by citizens who felt their human rights were being trammelled.

Late in September, hundreds of people staged a 'Return Our Central Provident Fund'

protest rally at Hong Lim Park, Singapore.

Coincidentally, in Hong Kong, thousands of young people staged the Occupy Central movement, combined with student-led classroom boycotts. Then they morphed into a bigger and broader pro-democracy protest, paralyzing key financial and administrative locations and testing the temper of government bosses, which continues.

As a result, pontificators postulated on the coincidences. But, as author Dylan Loh Ming Hui said similarities between the two dust-ups ended there..

The discontent in both communities has been fuelled by a cocktail of rising costs of living, high property prices, an influx of foreigners that are seen as threatening local geographical, cultural and social spaces, and the rise of a more vocal and politically conscious youth.

But in Singapore, a series of protests were organized and spearheaded by two relatively young activists — Roy Ngerng, 33, and Han Hui Hui, 22. The leaders in Hong Kong were even younger, with one of the main protesters Joshua Wong a mere 17.

But the perceived similarities have led some to ask will — or when will — Singapore do a 'Hong Kong'? The short answer is it won't.

Journalists in Sri Lanka face death threats

There has been an outcry from the media about death threats directed at journalist in Sri Lanka, and civil organizations claim they couldn't be so pervasive without government knowledge and, in some cases, support.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) joined its affiliates the Free Media Movement (FMM) and the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association (SLWJA) in condemning death threats. They were issued to some of the journalists who participated on Oct 15 in the concluding ceremony of a journalism-training program in Colombo.

Read more stories on our extra page in the online edition of *The Southern Yarn*.

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. Enjoy. 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.

After a delay while an adequate escort was provided, the main body of the NZEF left New Zealand on 16 October 1914. Originally it was intended that it would fight in France. This changed when the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) entered the war on the side of the Central Powers on 5 November.

New Zealand and Australian troops disembarked in Egypt to complete their training. From here they were sent to the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, in April 1915. More than 2700 New Zealanders died during this unsuccessful campaign.

After their evacuation from Gallipoli, New Zealand troops were sent to the Western Front (France and Belgium). The Gallipoli campaign and the birth of the Anzac legend have captured the imagination of generations of New Zealanders. But it is on the killing fields of the Western Front that most New Zealanders saw action and where most of them died – almost 12,500 in total.

In addition, a mounted rifles brigade participated in the Sinai–Palestine campaign. A



The Wellington Infantry Battalion boards ship on October 14, 1914/Alexander Turnbull Library

small number of New Zealanders served with British naval and air forces, while others sailed in British and locally owned merchant ships.

New Zealand's wartime strategy was to sustain the NZEF as its main contribution to the war effort while also keeping up the food production that was so vital to the survival of Britain. Reinforcement drafts left New Zealand at regular intervals throughout the war. [More online].

TIME to renew for 2015

Your membership is probably due, and we've made it easier than ever to renew.

Individual \$20 • Couple/family \$30

Mail your cheques to the Club at the address on the back of this issue, pay in person at the next event, or take advantage of our new PayPal link on the website for faster and more secure payment. Any questions or comments, please contact Peter Debenham at peter@pdlactg.ca or 204-955-0393.



Peter Debenham B.Com., CA
Partner

Suite 201, 1215 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg
Office: 204.339.8038 Fax: 204.339.8066
Mobile: 204.955.0393 Email: peter@mypd.ca



Board of Directors

President:

Peter Munn

Vice President:

Catherine Bowering

Secretary:

Margaret Munn

Newsletter Editor:

Charlie Powell

Treasurer:

Peter Debenham

Social Coordinator:

VACANT

Membership:

Norm Griffiths

Past President:

Terry Roberts

This newsletter can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services. Layout by design@hydesmith.com

The Southern Yarn is published by the Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc. (DUCW). The views and opinions expressed by contributors to this publication are not endorsed by, nor do they necessarily reflect those of, the members of the DUCW. The DUCW and the Editor of *The Southern Yarn* do not accept any responsibility for the content or accuracy of information or websites contained in this publication. Articles may be republished with permission of the Editor.

THE DOWN UNDER
CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

Station Main, PO Box 1655,
Winnipeg Manitoba Canada R3C 2Z6
1-204-832-4405

info@downunderclub.mb.ca

www.downunderclub.mb.ca

Like us on facebook!

Proudly printed in Winnipeg by
Kendrick Quality Printing Ltd.

Politicians sponsoring Nigeria kidnappings, BBC interviewee says

A 63-year-old Australian, Dr Stephen Davis, is reported as telling the BBC in a broadcast interview that he knows the name of one of the men alleged to be sponsoring Boko Haram, which has links with not only Al Qaeda but also ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

Davis's remarks were carried in an article by Trevor Grundy, a London born journalist and author, who lived and worked in central, eastern and southern Africa from 1966-1996. In the BBC's Today program, he said Davis claimed that it was "fruitless" to try and get the girls released because as soon as they were another group would kidnap more. He said orders to kill anyone who set free the girls would be issued by the group's sponsors.

The BBC interviewer asked: "Who are the sponsors?"

Davis replied: "Predominately, Nigerian politicians. There are sponsors outside Nigeria but also the likes of a former governor of Borno State ... whom we know has been financing Boko Haram for some time."

BBC: "I just want to interrupt for a second. You are saying that it is a senior Nigerian politician who is behind this whole thing?"

Davis: "Yes."

It is understood that Davis, who says he has a doctorate in geography, was appointed by Nigeria President Goodluck Jonathan to try and secure the release of the kidnapped girls by negotiation.

In a previous interview he said that the terrorist situation in West Africa is growing worse day by day.

Commonwealth force proposed to end Nigeria's horrors? Really?

Remember the BCFK, British Commonwealth Forces Korea? That was the formal name of the Commonwealth army, naval and air units serving with the UN in the Korean War.

Shock-horror! Someone suggested last month a BCFK unit should be mustered to tidy things up and end the brutal Boko Haram's terrorism in Nigeria's north. It hasn't been greeted with rousing cheers.

BCFK were units from Australian, Britain, Canada, India and New Zealand, which fought alongside the Americans and others as UN Forces. Some Commonwealth units and personnel served with United

States and/or other UN formations, which were not part of BCFK.

In 1949, Australian units based with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) in Japan were among the first UN personnel to be deployed in South Korea. Some served with forces (mainly British) riding the Malay Peninsular of Communist Chinese,

Malala to get Canadian citizenship and funding for campaign – The Canadian Prime Minister had to cancel two meetings with 17-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner, Malala Yousafzai, in Toronto last month because of a terrorist's shooting and invasion of the House of Commons. PM Stephen Harper's office said the events Toronto- to make Ms Yousafzai a Canadian Citizen and to moderate a question-and-answer session with her at a Toronto high school had to be cancelled because the government and opposition MPs and staff were in lockdown, in some cases for 11 hours. However, bestowal of the citizenship was affirmed, and the Prime Minister committed to help with funding of Ms Yousafzai's educational program.

Pistorius gets 5 years, likely 10 months prison, for shooting girlfriend

Olympic and Paralympic runner Oscar Pistorius, 27, sentenced in Pretoria last month (Oct 21) to a maximum of five years in jail for the 2013 shooting death of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, has until early this month to file an appeal. Under terms of his current sentence he could serve less than a year behind bars.

Judge Thokozile Masipa said before handing down the sentence that she hoped the result would provide some closure to the Steenkamp family. A sentence not involving confinement, after Pistorius was convicted of culpable homicide, would send a wrong message to the public, and that a long jail sentence would lack an "element of mercy."

Pistorius was taken from Pretoria's North Gauteng High Court to begin his sentence in the hospital wing of Pretoria Central prison where he will likely serve the term.

"Justice was served today," said Dup De Bruyn, the lawyer for the Steenkamp family....

"We accept the judgment," said Arnold Pistorius, Oscar's uncle.

"Oscar (Pistorius) will embrace this opportunity to pay back to society," the uncle told journalists after the sentencing.

Barry Roux, a defence lawyer for Pistorius, said he expected the athlete would

serve 10 months behind bars with the remainder under house arrest.