

The Southern Yarn

March 2015



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

MARCH

Social Evening

Saturday March 14th, 7 PM

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Come and enjoy a games night, each other's company and get updated on ANZAC Day plans and opportunities to be involved in this historic Club and Winnipeg event.

APRIL

Formal recognition of the 100th anniversary of ANZAC Day

Thursday 23rd April

Manitoba Legislative Building

More details to come.

Our special DUCW

ANZAC commemoration

Saturday 25th April

Western Canada Aviation Museum

958 Ferry Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba

More details to come.

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.

Please renew for 2015

Individual \$20 ... Couple/family \$30 ... This is the last chance to renew your membership! If you haven't paid your dues yet for 2015, please go to the website link below and make it happen. It is super easy now with Pay Pal, or you can mail a cheque Or just bring the cash to the next event. Please call **Norm Griffiths** at 204-661-3873 to indicate your intentions. Phone Peter Debenham at 204-955-0393 for assistance, or email peter@pdact.ca.



Anzac Cove as it looked 100 years ago when the troops landed. The Down Under Club will hold a major event on April 25th at Winnipeg's aviation museum. We expect to see you there!

Our Anzac Day event will mark 100 years, to the day

We are very excited to be celebrating Anzac Day this year with a special commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand forces on the shores of Gallipoli.

Anzac Day has always been a highlight on our calendar, but this year is going to be really special. Because the 100th anniversary falls on a Saturday, it's the perfect opportunity for us to hold a major event to commemorate the occasion.

The ceremony will be held on **Saturday April 25 at the Western Canada Aviation Museum** at 958 Ferry Rd. The formal ceremony will **start promptly at 2:00 pm**, and you are encouraged to **arrive by 1:45 pm** so we can get everyone seated and welcome our dignitaries and guests. The ceremony will be followed by an Anzac-inspired **afternoon tea** catered by High Tea Bakery.

There will also be an educational and historical component for you to provide perspective for this special event.

We've been commemorating Anzac Day since 1949 - our first significant function as a Club. We borrowed a huge Australian flag from the *Winnipeg Free Press* and draped it

around the Cenotaph. The then Mayor of Winnipeg, Garnet Coulter, placed a wreath on behalf of the city.

This year, in addition to dignitaries from the city, armed forces and beyond, we will also welcome member Laurie Morris and friend Jules Morier, representing the Ontario Provincial Police.

The focus, however, will be on you, the members, and your family and friends. Anzac Day is an important event, and we invite you all to be part of it. We hope to have a packed house to make this something to truly remember.

Help us get an idea of numbers. **Please take a moment to let us know if you will or might be able to attend**, or are able to join us putting it all together. Contact Liz at 204-487-0067 or social@downunderclub.mb.ca.

We look forward to seeing you there.

~ Lest We Forget ~



DUCW members meet to help plan the Anzac special event for April 25th.

online



find us on facebook or the web
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email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day -

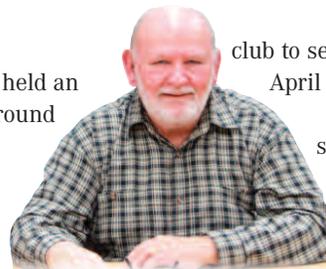
Its always a temptation, in this column, to comment on the weather. But who needs another comment on the weather? This is Winnipeg in March! So we all know what the weather is like and what we can expect for the next month or more. So why waste small talk commenting on the obvious? Anyway, practically everyone you meet brings up the subject - there is no necessity for me to add further insight. It is what it is, so what's the point discussing it. It would be pure fluff to waste space on the subject here. So I won't even mention the weather ... except to remind readers that crows also endure the winters here. Therefore they are featured in "Birds I View" this month (p.6).

As editor of *The Southern Yarn* I am very grateful for the regular contributors: Murray Burt, Peter Munn, Jenny Gates, Downunder Travel, Kiwi Installations, Pooley Law Practice and MYPD Chartered Accountants; also other members who offer occasional items and stories - like Laurie Morris last month. For this issue, Peter Debenham sent me some family history relevant to WW1 - see p.4.



Find out what the American Crow has to crow about on page 6. Apparently its Aussie and Kiwi counterparts are not truly worthy of their names!

Hi there,
As you know, the club has held an Anzac Day service on or around April 25th for many years. 1915 was the year of the landing at Gallipoli, making this the Centennial Anniversary. The board of directors has acknowledged that this historical event should be especially recognized, and planning is ongoing for this year's service to be held at The Western Canadian Aviation Museum, located near the Winnipeg Airport.



president's ramblings

Peter Munn

Recently, we have not had a large membership turnout for the Anzac Day service, and we are encouraging EVERYONE in the

club to set aside Saturday afternoon, 25th April for this special occasion.

Liz Hydesmith is leading the sub-committee that has been struck to organize this event. Planning is moving along well, and they are extending invitations to the military, three levels of government, and other dignitaries. Jenny G will be working her magic with her contacts in the media, to ensure every Aussie and Kiwi in the city knows about this event, and is encouraged to attend.

So make a note to yourself, I am really looking forward to commemorating this anniversary with all of you.

Peter



Winter in Winnipeg departs as quickly as it arrives, it seems sometimes. You have to remember to get out to enjoy some of the city's winter pleasures like skating on the River Trail from The Forks.

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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience



Canucks exiled to Tassie

Back in 1837 and 1838 some North Americans in what is now Ontario, attempted to overthrow the ruling British. The rebellions failed and 92 of them ended up on ships headed to Van Dieman's Land. Now a memorial for these political prisoners has been rededicated in Hobart. [More online.]

Struth! Could we be losing our lingo?!

flamin' galah, dead 'orse, g'day, bloke, sheila, crook ... could these aussie slang words be going the way of the drongo? Some folk are getting worried! Probably inevitable eventually, but the colourful tradition will be sorely missed by many of the true blues. [More online.]



Two new Tim Tam flavours

Arnott's, the makers of the iconic Australian chocolate coated Tim Tam biscuits, has launched two new flavours in its range of Tim Tams developed in Australia in collaboration with celebrity patissier Adriano Zumbo. Tim Tam by Adriano Zumbo has released a coconut cream variety as well as a

chocolate raspberry flavour. [More online.]

Did you know? ... Tim Tam biscuits were named after a horse that won the Kentucky Derby! In 1958 Ross Arnott attended the race day and decided 'Tim Tam' was the perfect name for his new biscuit.

Click Go the Shears

More than 2,000 people were drawn to the 'Blades of Glencoe' event in South Australia for a glimpse of Australian life in a time when sheep production propped up the nation. During the event, the clock was wound back more than a century, to 1863, when shearers sharpened their handheld blades on rock and silently went about their work. Sixty-four-year-old Ritchie Foster, who organised the event, has been shearing for nearly 50 years and shorn more than 750,000 sheep. "I train and train ... and [am] still improving."



President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. Nor, for that matter, a service medal you were not expecting.

"I had no idea it was coming until it arrived in the post - it was completely out of the blue," the 92-year-old veteran of the Royal Navy's Arctic convoys said. [More online.]



New Zealander's Invention

The TV show Daily Planet recently featured a Hoverbike which is being developed by a Kiwi now living in the UK. The original Hoverbike was built by Chris Malloy of New Zealand, after work and studies in his garage in suburban Sydney Australia. This project started out as a hobby, but quickly grew into a commercial enterprise, with interest from people and groups such as universities, farmers, search and rescue, private and military, with notable visits from the US Army G-3/5/7 and Lockheed Martin "skunk works" Most of the frame of the original Hoverbike was hand crafted from carbon fibre, kevlar and aluminum with a foam core. [More online.]

Kiwi Skier Claims Silver

Already with two golds to his name, Kiwi sit-skier Corey Peters has added a silver in the Giant Slalom at the IPC world champs. Peters was looking to add to his medal haul following wins in the Super-G and Downhill in Canada last week. He took an all or nothing approach to his first run on a hard icy course, drilling down in search of the fastest line. Where he hit holes and gained air or made small mistakes he was able to recover and hold on for the finish. "I'm incredibly stoked on the week and how I've skied," said Peters. "I've blown my own expectations out of the water."

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Special delivery from Putin

When Napier man Stan Douglas went out to get the mail from his letterbox a few days ago he was left slightly stunned - as it's not every day you get a note on behalf of the

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100yearsago
history from downunder

Ku-ring-gai chases history

*Rallying the Troops: A World War I
Commemoration, Volume 1*

Over 1300 men and women with links to Ku-ring-gai served in World War I. They came from all walks of life, from labourers to university lecturers. Their origins were diverse, not only from the immediate locality but also from other parts of New South Wales, from other states and from other countries.

Their achievements were many: one in every ten was decorated. Their losses were great: one in every five did not return. What all did for their nation is monumental. Volume I, with a foreword by Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, has been researched and written by members of Ku-ring-gai Historical Society.

It contains the war stories of those with names beginning A to F, approximately one third of all those who volunteered. It also includes chapters on our area as it was at the outbreak of war, on recruiting, enlistment and the rifle clubs, the early battles in which our veterans were involved, information on our local memorials and a guide to the memorials and cemeteries overseas where our dead are commemorated.

Volumes II and III are planned for release in 2015 and 2016. [More online.]

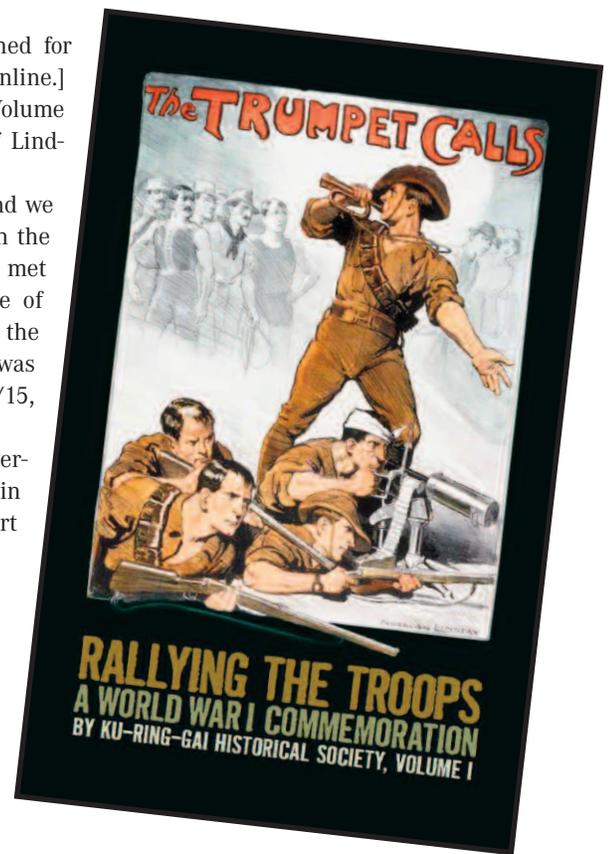
Three of the men featured in Volume I are the **Debenham** brothers of Lindfield, Arthur, Frank and Herbert.

Arthur was my grandfather and we used to visit him in Springfield in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney. I met Frank (my great uncle) a couple of times - he lived in London after the war. Herbert, also my great uncle, was killed at Gallipoli, but on Aug 9/15, not Apr 25/15.

My dad did not speak about Herbert because dad was only born in 1912, so he was only 3 when Herbert died.

Peter Debenham

DUCW member Peter Debenham's grandfather is one of the men featured in this new historical book.



The historic significance of the 100th anniversary of the First World War is being recognized around the world. In New Zealand and Australia, the battle of Gallipoli is a focus point for these events, on April 25th, 2015. Creative ideas such as these special rosemary plants, propagated in Adelaide from a specimen brought back from Gallipoli are now part of the **Avenues of Honour** project in Australia.



Consuls Awarded Royal Norwegian Order of Merit

For their outstanding service in the interest of Norway, the honorary consuls of Winnipeg and Quebec City have been awarded The Order of Merit.

Natalie Denesovych with husband Dave (pictured here), and Céline Saucier have served 10 and 8 years as honorary consuls in Winnipeg and Quebec City respectively. The Order of Merit has been bestowed upon them in recognition of their extensive contributions to the Norwegian Foreign Service.

The Royal Norwegian Order of Merit was founded by King Olav V in 1985, and the decoration is conferred on foreign and Norwegian nationals as a reward for their outstanding service in the interest of Norway.

The Norwegian Embassy would like to extend its warmest congratulations to the two honorary consuls, and thank them for their service thus far. And so would the DUCW!

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Embattled Australian PM “dead man walking” in rattled Liberal Party

Australian national politics is in trouble. And that trouble seems to be a product of the management of Prime Minister Tony Abbott. It has generated some stinging media commentary.

Even a challenge to his leadership is fraught with problems: there is no viable challenger. Oh, there are some snarly critics like backbenchers Dennis Jensen, Mal Brough and Warren Entsch. And some of the polls place them above Abbott in popularity. But the other Liberal backbenchers show little sign of wanting to dump him.

A caustic column by writer Annabel Crabb summed it up well: “For all the talk of the Prime Minister being a dead man walking, another move against him can only be triggered by further frustration at his failure to change or sustain pressure from a popular rival. And the latter doesn’t look likely.”

Last week’s Liberal leadership vote ... was a grueling, nail-biting, and mutually costly battle between the Australian Prime Minister and himself, and it didn’t go well. But...

“Good government starts today!” the PM declared at his post-vote press conference (demonstrating at least that his talent for cheerful demi-clangers remains unbowed).

He assured his colleagues that Medicare changes wouldn’t be pursued without “broad agreement” from doctors, that there would be a further tax cut for small business, and that his office’s vetting of ministerial staff appointments and Cabinet submissions would be eased back, the better to hear the views of his colleagues.

“This is going to be a government which socializes decisions before they are finalized,” Abbott promised. –Source: Annabel Crabb, ABC chief online political writer

Kiwi troops to Iraq as trainers

New Zealand is sending about 100 troops to Iraq to help in the fight against ISIS. Prime Minister John Key said they will fill training functions in the rear, not combat roles near front lines.

When he announced the move in Commons last month he had acid rebuttals for Opposition critics and lashed out angrily at its attacks, saying “Get some guts...”

Key said they would be helping an Aus-

tralia contingent also involved in preparing Iraqi soldiers to combat Islamic State fighters. But he did not rule out that NZ personnel could help providing intelligence for air strikes by the US, UK and Oz fighters. However, he said if troops were deployed mainly to provide training to local soldiers on the ground, and would not be engaged in battle. –Source: News Service; NZ Herald

Tiny group of Australian islanders struggle to save a 10-language treasure

There are 400 islanders who talk, work and live in the Arnhemland archipelagoes in northern Australia and speak 10 languages among themselves. One group is on Goldberg Island, and there are many like it in the world.

Big concern there is the dwindling number of scientists, scholars and elders fighting for preservation of the region’s lifestyle. The numbers who soak up and use the many languages of the region is in steady decline, despite the vigorous support of elders and one-on-one work in community, even in kindergarten atmospheres.

One person, a failing 74-year-old, is the last person alive speaking one of the 10 languages. That’s Omerdoc, the language of his birth.

Nevertheless, it’s an anomaly when one considers our whole world functions in 6,000 languages, and many of them fading fast. It’s estimated one language is lost every two weeks, despite the scientific efforts, scholarship, education, and some government support.

Those living in these language oases, know from experience when a word is lost it is gone forever. Australia was once home to 300 languages, a feature of its nomadic populace. Now there are 50 or less.

Coalition in St Kitts-Nevis ends Labor’s 20 year reign

The opposition Team Unity coalition formed the government in St Kitts Nevis last month after winning seven of 11 parliamentary seats in Caribbean nation of 54,000 people.

The vote ended a reign of 20-years by the Labour party, headed by Denzil Douglas, who has been prime minister since 1995. He conceded defeat and offered his congratulations to a three-party Team Unity opposition coalition. It was made up of an amalgamation of People’s Action Movement, the Concerned Citizens Movement and the People’s Labour party.

“Today is a great day! Team Unity has won the general election,” Timothy Harris, the prime minister-elect, said in a statement.

He was once in the Douglas cabinet. In the campaign, the coalition accused the Douglas’ administration of autocratic tendencies and making poor economic decisions, among other charges.

St Kitts and Nevis, with a population of 50,000, is 51st of 53 Commonwealth nations, by size, one of the smallest independent countries in the world. – Source: Reuters

Fiji ponders replacing its flag

Fiji is pondering the replacement of its national flag, and proponents are citing Canada’s abandonment of its Old Red Duster with the Union Jack in the corner. They want to rid the country of a constant reminder of its colonial past and this has caused little mourning, but the emblem’s designer may shed some tears.



Tessa Mackenzie, who won a competition to create the nation’s flag when it won independence from the UK in 1970, has maintained that people still love the flag. “They feel really proud of it... I find it very difficult to envisage what they can choose which will be appropriate and relevant for everybody,” she said.

Flag experts have said the change was inevitable. Clive Cheesman, an official at the College of Arms, the UK’s official heraldic authority, told *The Independent*: “Some may say it’s bad that it’s going. We’re not going to regret its passing, it’s of its era and that era came to an end in 1987 [the year that Fiji was expelled from the Commonwealth].”

A new flag will be chosen through another national competition and will be revealed on the 45th anniversary of independence on October 10. – Sources: Nick Clark; *The Independent*

Murray Burt writes this column to raise sensitivities to the Commonwealth’s value and to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world. The Commonwealth name and significance is rarely mentioned in daily news, he says. It should be. 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.

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Crows

Stone the crows! As the crow flies; scarecrow; crow's nest; Russell Crowe; crow's feet; a murder of crows they're in our lingo, and have been forever. They feature prominently in the folklore and legends of every culture. They are now considered one of the most intelligent animals – right up there with apes.

I observed at an early age the intelligence of Crows. I liked to spend school holidays working on a friend's dairy farm and between chores would often go walk-about, usually with a .22 rifle (these days I would aim and shoot with a camera). Anyway I noticed that the crows would keep their distance when I had the rifle, but showed no concern if I just had a hiking stick – even when I aimed it at them, pretending it was a rifle! (no doubt having a chuckle on me). There's a pet crow, named "Jet", at the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Center in Île-des-Chênes, Man., that has learned to mimic its minders.

Just to clear up the correct relationship within the *Corvidae* Family: the Genus is *Corvus* and includes crows, ravens, jays and magpies (but not the Australian magpie – see the January *Yarn*). Our common North American crow is *Corvus brachyrhynchos* and the one commonly seen in Australia is *C. coronoides*, which is actually the Australian Raven and is distinguished by a white iris (adult). Downunder they are all colloquially called "crows" – even the Adelaide football team. New Zealand's member of the family is the rook, *Corvus frugilegus*, introduced from Britain in the 1800s - the native raven having gone extinct centuries earlier.

While their intelligence is admired, their appetite for other, smaller native birds has not



The most common 'crows' in Australia are *C. coronoides*, which is actually the Australian Raven and is distinguished by a white iris.

endeared them and in fact has seen bounties and culls in many towns. I incurred their aggressive wrath a few years ago when I destroyed a nest high up in a Manitoba Maple in our backyard. Thankfully we are still visited by many of the little long distance travellers, including American Goldfinches and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. I've witnessed Cedar Waxwings and Robins, no doubt distracted and maybe even drunk on the feast of berries on our neighbor's Mountain Ash, being grabbed by crows. At Narcisse, in the Interlake, they somehow know to only go for the liver of the plentiful garter snakes.

But they, too, tough it out through our Manitoba winters and are often the only birds seen when driving outside the city during those months. They are on patrol for road-kill year round and also play an important role in helping control crop pests.

We don't have quite enough room to share with you a very nice Aussie poem entitled *As The Crow Flies*, by Stella P. Bell, so check it out on page seven of our online version or follow this link.



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commonwealth place

by Murray Burt

Canberra ponders crunch time in Papua New Guinea

The talk in Canberra is that the priority in Australia's diplomacy for 2015 will be its own backyard in the Pacific. This is long overdue, and may be too late. Mending diplomatic fences with Fiji may be one thing; Australia's ability to have a positive impact on outcomes in Papua New Guinea is likely to be quite another thing altogether.

Despite its significant aid program in Papua New Guinea, which delivers more than half a billion Australian dollars in assistance annually to its former colony, Australia's influence on outcomes in Papua New Guinea has taken a remarkable dive. This is partly because the resource boom over the past decade has played a much more important role in the PNG economy, although that is now in jeopardy with the tanking of commodity prices. More importantly it is because diplomatic initiative has been seriously compromised by Australia's being beholden to the past two PNG governments over the delivery of its offshore processing strategy for refugees. The government led by Peter O'Neill would appear to have had the Australian government over a barrel with the deal it has done on refugees with recent Australian governments.

While the economy and government revenues grew strongly over the past few years... the boom is now coming to a rapid end with the collapse of oil prices.

Papua New Guinea was among the first developing countries to put in place a resource-rent taxation regime and it set up the PNG Sustainable Development Program (PNGSDP) in 2002 to manage revenues from the Ok Tedi mine prudently for investment in economic and social development. Yet the integrity of PNGSDP has been undermined since Prime Minister O'Neill nationalized Ok Tedi and sought to dismantle PNGSDP's independent management structure, steps that are currently under challenge in international courts.

O'Neill came to power with the promise of being tough on corruption. He set up Task Force Sweep as a powerful instrument for investigating and bringing corrupt officials

and practices to court. It had some wins. But over the past two years, O'Neill and his government has become mired in controversy and tainted by impropriety and corruption.

As this month opens, the prime minister will no longer be protected by constitutional provisions, which, as amended by the parliament in 2013, prohibit a vote of no confidence for the first 30 months of a government's term. Though it may be an unlikely prospect it would be ideal if such a vote were tied closely to the outstanding questions of national governance. The elections in 2017 are no longer that far away. If O'Neill is forced to stand down as a result of one or both of the cases now pending against him, there will be uncertainty in political leadership. Whether there is a full-blown economic crisis in the making or not, it's certainly crunch time for Papua New Guinea and, more than ever, Australia's performance of its international and neighborly diplomatic responsibilities will be crucially important to outcomes. Source—EAF, Peter Drysdale

birds i view...

by Charlie Powell

I'll give the last word to Australian poet Stella P. Bell and her nostalgic poem:

As The Crow Flies

There's a place not far, as the crow flies,
In the desert, so hot and so dry
It holds memories so dear and so close,
That I can see it in my mind's eye
It doesn't have towns or a city,
It doesn't have trains or a tram.
It does have wide open spaces
And I see it wherever I am
There are many things to see and do there
But they're not the ones that are here.
No matter what I find myself doing now
There are times when I journey back there
Where the moon is so large and so brilliant
That it lights up the night time sky
And I find myself reminiscing
About all the times that have gone by

Stella P. Bell -

See more at: <http://www.australian-information-stories.com/as-the-crow-flies.html#sthash.RcCDw97g.dpuf>