

# The Southern Yarn

July 2015



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

## downundercalendar

### JULY

#### *Annual Pool Party and Potluck SUNDAY 19th July, 2 - 6 pm*

Jason and Lynley Davidson

57 D'arcy Drive, Winnipeg

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

**NOTE:** this event was originally scheduled for the day before.

### AUGUST

#### *Saturday 22nd August Golf Tournament at The Players 2695 Inkster Blvd.*

Details to come, but let Peter Munn know you're interested. Phone 204-237-1805

### SEPTEMBER

#### *Wine and Cheese Saturday 12th September, 7pm Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St.*

We get back in the groove with this favourite event. There will also be an opportunity to view the video of our historic ANZAC Day ceremony.

### FOR YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER 24th **Formal Dinner**

NOVEMBER 27th **AGM**

DECEMBER 6th **Children's Christmas Party**

### RSVP

If you let us know you are coming, we can be ready for you! RSVP to (204) 487-0067 or [social@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:social@downunderclub.mb.ca).

#### *Advertise in The Southern Yarn.*

Contact Jenny (228-9959, [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca)) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca) or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.



When the **FIFA Women's World Cup** came to town in June, Aussies and Kiwis from the DUCW joined thousands of soccer fans at Investor's Field to cheer on all the teams. One of those supporters was Pam Debenham, Peter's sister, who was out from Australia with her partner Heather Reid. Heather was representing the Matildas as the head of Capital Football in Canberra. Photos: Terry Roberts and Peter Debenham cheering New Zealand's women's World Cup soccer team in their match against China. Hydesmith photo. Top right – Peter, Pam and Joanne Debenham. Lower right – Peter and co in supporter mode.

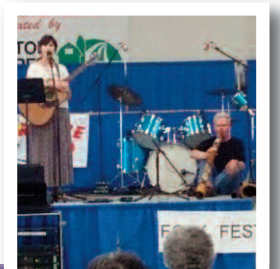
## Up From Down Under

On Friday and Saturday June 12 and 13, Gerry Gordon and Jenny Gates performed at the Swan River Folk Fest, bringing the sounds of Australia to this northern Manitoba event.

Known as "Up From Down Under", we were one of many groups and performers representing 13 different countries and cultures. [More online]

Each of our four performances was dedicated to the memory of Monica Black, who for many years was THE face of down under at the event.

Huge thanks to Matt Black and his mob at the Australia/New Zealand display for inviting us back for our 6th appearance at the triennial festival, and stocking us up with treats and eats for the journey home. Beauty, mates!



online



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## editorially yours

Charlie Powell



### G'day!

I have been perplexed for the past couple of weeks – trying to identify a bird that I could hear but not see – until recently – I have now confirmed that it is a house wren. Poor little guy spends much of the day calling for his mate. Obviously something must have happened to her – maybe a cat or hawk, but definitely not what got the butcher bird in the Birds I View story contributed by my cousin in Red Rock, NSW (p.6).

Our Little Free Library has proved popular with locals and passers by, and ourselves! I recently found “Wings above the Diamantina” in there and devoured it almost in a sitting! When I Googled the author, Arthur Upfield, his own story was so interesting that I plan to feature him in next month’s Getting to know ...

Thank you to other contributors this month: Jenny Gates Peter Debenham, David Whyte, Brian Hydesmith and Murray Burt.

Enjoy!



Sharing books through the free lending library idea is a fun and creative idea that brings communities together.

For sun lovers, the past week has been heaven. Temperatures in the high 20s, and sunshine.

Following a phone call from my brother, who had just returned from a visit there, I was reminded of the heat and sunshine of West Wyalong, about 300 miles due west of Sydney, where he and I spent many holidays with relatives on a 2000 acre wheat and sheep property. The two of us (beginning before I was a teenager) would travel by train from Melbourne late in the day to Albury, where a different rail gauge forced us to change trains, to a steam train headed for Cootamundra, where



## president's ramblings

Peter Munn

we hung about the station in the middle of the night until another train took us to West Wyalong.

We generally spent about 2 weeks there, exploring, hunting, helping on the farm, and having great fun for two city slickers. One of my two uncles on the property had 2 boys, and the four of us became firm friends. Over the later years, we drove there, continuing to enjoy the high heat, low humidity and sunshine of central NSW in the summer. I was able to visit there on a recent trip down under, and every memory was a pleasant one.

Enjoy the summer,  
Peter



What's happening here? Read all about it in the August issue of *The Yarn*.

## Go Walkabout!

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are available from  
all major cities.

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## A Flamin' Shame

The Waltzing Matilda Centre, built in 1998 in Winton, Queensland, was destroyed by fire on June 18. According to ABC reporter Chrissy Arthur, "Firefighters were called to the famous museum and tourist spot about 2:00am."

Two crews from Winton and one from Longreach, almost 200 kilometres away, attended the scene. Winton Mayor Butch Lenton said the firefighters fought to save what they could, including a World War I exhibition.

"With the Banjo Room with the war stuff in it, if that there has gone, well, that history will be gone that's for sure," he said.

"Unfortunately it is a bit of a kick in the guts but we will tough it out and keep going with it.

"There have been no injuries and we are grateful for that, but unfortunately you lose a lot of history which you can't regather."

[More online].

## Eating 'junk food' regularly is the norm for Victorians

A study, reported in Australian Food News, shows that packaged snacks as well as fast foods such as hot chips or pizza have become



dietary staples for average Victorians.

Titled "Shape of Victoria", the survey of 1000 people was conducted by the Cancer Council Victoria and Heart Foundation of Victoria and among other things showed that over 80 per cent of people believed overeating was the 'new norm'. At least 85 per cent said junk food has become part of their daily diet. Most people do not actually know how much they eat in any given day. [More online]



## Remember the America's Cup win in 1983?

Alan Bond dead: businessman dies in Fiona Stanley Hospital where he had been in an induced coma following complications after open-heart surgery. His son, John Bond, announcing the death of his father Alan Bond on Friday morning June 5th, recalled the "larger than life" tycoon. "To a lot of people, Dad was a larger than life character who started with nothing and did so much. He really did experience the highs and lows of life." [More online].



Alan Bond

## But they have a new coffee option to go with it ...

Thanks to a New Zealand company, Jed's Coffee Company, a new coffee 'bean bag' has been introduced to the Australian market. The five strength levels, ranging from smooth to extra strong, will compete with similar products from Robert Timms.



This is a first in Australia for Jed's which has been manufacturing instant coffee and espresso beans for the New Zealand market since 2010. [More online].

## Mars New Zealand celebrates winning prestigious D&AD Black Pencil

Auckland, NEW ZEALAND, 8 June, 2015 - Mars New Zealand, with its agency Colenso BBDO, has been recognized for outstanding creativity at the D&AD Pencil Awards 2015. Its work on PEDIGREE'S K9FM was awarded two Yellow Pencils and the prestigious Black Pencil, the highest accolade for outstanding creative work - awarded to just five winners out of 20,000 entries.

K9FM is a creative campaign fuelled by the insights that drive PEDIGREE's mission - to make the world a better place for dogs. Dog experts suggest that leaving music or radio playing when your dog is home alone gives them a sense of company and comfort. It works to block out noises from outside the house that might concern or excite them. Building on this insight, PEDIGREE created K9FM - a radio station just for dogs, that combines classical music, talkies, dog traffic, virtual outings, meditation, affirmation half hours and 'learning human'. [More online]



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Treaty signing

## Treaty People

This is the third and final in our look at Treaties in our 3 countries. This month it's Canada.

### Treaties with Aboriginal people in Canada

The Government of Canada and the courts understand treaties between the Crown and Aboriginal people to be solemn agreements that set out promises, obligations and benefits for both parties.

Starting in 1701, in what was to eventually become Canada, the British Crown entered into solemn treaties to encourage peaceful relations between First Nations and non-Aboriginal people. Over the next several centuries, treaties were signed to define, among other things, the respective rights of Aboriginal people and governments to use and enjoy lands that Aboriginal people traditionally occupied.

Treaties include historic treaties made between 1701 and 1923 and modern-day treaties known as comprehensive land claim settlements.

Treaty rights already in existence in 1982 (the year the Constitution Act was passed), and those that came afterwards, are recognized and affirmed by Canada's Constitution.

### The Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Pre-Confederation treaties

In the 18th century, the French and British were competing for control of lands in North America. The two colonial powers formed strategic alliances with First Nations to help them advance their respective colonial interests in the continent. For example, in what are now New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the British made a series of "Peace and Friendship" treaties with the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet tribes between 1725 and 1779.

By the early 1760s, the British had estab-

lished themselves as the dominant colonial power in North America. The British Royal Proclamation of 1763 prohibited the purchase of First Nation lands by any party other than the Crown. The Crown could purchase land from a First Nation group that had agreed to the sale at a public meeting of the group.

Several treaties were signed after the Royal Proclamation and before Confederation in 1867. These include the Upper Canada Treaties (1764 to 1862) and the Vancouver Island Treaties (1850 to 1854). Under these treaties, the First Nations surrendered interests in lands in areas of what are now Ontario and British Columbia in exchange for certain other benefits that could include reserves, annual payments or other types of payment and certain rights to hunt and fish.

### Historic treaties after Confederation

Between 1871 and 1921, the Crown entered into treaties with various First Nations that enabled the Canadian government to actively pursue agriculture, settlement and resource development of the Canadian West and the North. Because they are numbered 1 to 11, the treaties are often referred to as the "Numbered Treaties." The Numbered Treaties cover Northern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and parts of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia.

Under these treaties, the First Nations who occupied these territories gave up large areas of land to the Crown. In exchange, the treaties provided for such things as reserve lands and other benefits like farm equipment and animals, annual payments, ammunition, clothing and certain rights to hunt and fish. The Crown also made some promises such as maintaining schools on reserves or providing teachers or educational help to the First Nation named in the treaties. Treaty No. 6 included the promise of a medicine chest. [More online]

### The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) is a neutral body, created through a partnership between the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) and Canada with a mandate to strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship and mutual respect between First Nations and Manitobans as envisaged by the Treaty Parties.

The TRCM will enhance and maintain positive intergovernmental relations and cooperation, conduct independent research that advances discussion on Treaty related issues, and facilitate public understanding of the importance and role of Treaty making in building a stronger and healthier nation. Learn more at [More online.]

Find out more about  
the Treaty Relations  
Commission of Manitoba  
at their website.



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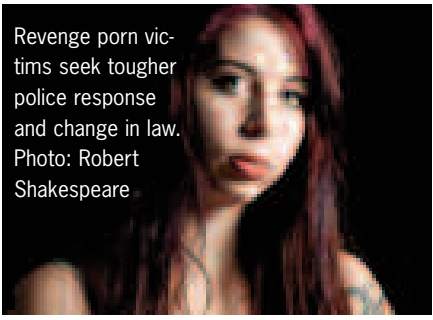
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Revenge porn victims seek tougher police response and change in law.  
Photo: Robert Shakespeare



## We will not be shamed

Nursing student Sarah-Kaye Steinmann was a victim when views of her were uploaded online and distributed without her permission.

She's just one of the revenge porn victims who are speaking out and going on the offensive for change in police attitude or changes in the law.

Young women, mainly in eastern Australia, are greatly distressed that images of them nude, and sometime indiscreet, are posted without their knowledge on "revenge porn" websites. They're putting the pressure on the law to take a tougher line.

Some of them, "called revenge porn victims," made this line of thinking clear in an article by reporter Natalie Rochenski of the *Sydney Morning Herald* last week under the headline "We will not be shamed."

The women say the focus shouldn't be on telling them (the women) to cover up, rather it should be on shutting down the predatory behaviour of perpetrators – and considering prosecution.

The practice of uploading nudes to file-sharing websites has been in the spotlight in recent weeks after images of more than 700 women from the Brisbane area were shared on a New Zealand-based server.

Police issued a takedown request on June 23, but the images were uploaded again several days later.

Nursing student Sarah-Kaye Steinmann, 20, found in May that a folder featuring images of her had made its way online.

"The photos that were shared of me were of sexual intercourse that my former partner had taken at the time on his phone," she said.

"It's not something I had taken and sent to him, it's what he took on his own phone, which at the time I was fine with because you don't think that's going to happen."

Ms Steinmann said she went to police but nothing was done.

"I was literally met with a deadpan face ... he was not interested," she said of the officer who took her complaint.

Ms Steinmann said she showed the officer Facebook messages in which the man responsible for uploading the pictures threatened to kill her.

"The only thing he said to me was 'How do you know this guy is even a real person?'" she said. "He said it was probably just a fake profile."

Ms Steinmann said all the officer gave her was a piece of paper with ACORN written on it – the acronym for the Australian Cyber-crime Online Reporting Network.

Sources – SMH, Wire services

## Refugees scooped by Oz navy 'treated like animals,' face 'bride shopping'

The Australian-run detention centre on Nauru has become a centre of despair for its asylum seekers and is a now political hot potato for the Abbott government in Canberra.

Nauru is where the Australian Navy deposits the illegal traffic of refugees it intercepts from South East Asia, and unloads them well clear of Australian territory.

It has financial appeal for the Government of Nauru and controls the unwanted smuggled refugees for Canberra.

Last month the stories broke about "desperate and dispirited asylum seekers forming suicide pacts." The Nauru "guests" at the Australian compounds were identified by numbers instead of by name, and were "treated like animals by some guards," according to accounts by two social workers who worked at the centre.

In the suicide pacts, "There was a single adult female... There was a group of teenage girls... There was a group of fathers... There was a group of mothers," said Natasha Blucher, a caseworker who personally signed 10 reports alerting centre management to the suicide pacts.

Ms Blucher and another former social worker, Michelle Groeneveld, were among 10 Save the Children staff ordered to leave Nauru last October when former immigration minister Scott Morrison claimed they encouraged refugees to self-harm.

A subsequent government review dismissed the claims, but none of the workers at the centre of the storm has spoken publicly until now.

Ms Blucher said she often clashed with guards about the practice of identifying inmates as numbers.

"Most of the time it wasn't toxic but then sometimes ... I would challenge them on things that they were doing or ask them to stop treating people with disrespect or ask them to stop referring to people by their boat IDs," she said.

There have also been sinister stories about the sexual exploitation of inmates by guards. Ms Blucher described an atmosphere where local Nauruan staff saw the camp as a showcase for bride shopping.

Ms Groeneveld argues the Australian Government was deliberately cruel and did not meet needs on purpose.

"It's very obvious in that environment that the Government do not want to give any comfort or make anything comfortable at all," she said.

Social workers were constantly reporting abuse. When late last September, as some asylum seekers on Nauru were planning to kill themselves, the Government decided to sack some Save the Children case workers.

"I believe we were scapegoated to take the attention away from what was happening in the camp, which is the sexual exploitation of children, abuse, people's human rights not being met, medical negligence – a boiling pot of despair," Michelle Groeneveld, of Save the Children Fund staff, said.

She viewed the dismissal as an act of intimidation. Last week the sacked social workers demanded a public apology from Canberra.

The action was based on a false intelligence report about their conduct. For the first time, two of the social workers, Natasha Blucher and Michelle Groeneveld, who were among the Save the Children staff ordered to leave Nauru last October, have broken their silence. A Government review has already dismissed the pair's claims, but none of the workers at the centre of the storm has given their account in public, until now.

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.

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

The following was submitted by David Whyte, my cousin in Australia.

**W**e live in the small quiet village of Red Rock on the mid north coast of

NSW. There are beaches and dunes, an estuary, heath and swamp, banksia and paperbark woodland, and eucalypt forest – so we have a wide variety of birds. The main visitors to our backyard are **Rainbow Lorikeets** and **Crested Pigeons**. The streets (usually empty) are controlled by **Spur Winged Plovers** which demand that 4WDs and motorhomes stop until their chicks have safely crossed the road. In November the beaches are littered with dead **Muttonbirds** (Shearwaters) which didn't survive the migration south.

In March I have seen **Brahminy Kites** swoop down and grab small white birds off the sandspit across the river. I guess these were young **Little Terns** which hadn't learned to fly in time to join the migration north to East Asia. But our "best" bird story is also a snake story.

In our back yard, we have a bottlebrush roughly cut back to chest height. A Hills hoist, in the middle of the yard, nearly touches the bottlebrush. We had been hanging a birdseed feeder from this bush.

One cool and drizzly morning I looked down from upstairs and saw about 20 screeching Lorikeets sitting along the outermost wire of the Hills hoist, all looking in one direction – at the bottlebrush. On top of the bush was draped, totally motionless, eyes unblinking, a 2 metre **carpet snake**, its first 30cm or so in an ominous S bend. A number of Crested Pigeons sat quietly in a



plump row along a wire further away. Confidently assuring Ann that the snake was too cold to move fast, I got up close and personal with my camera. Some **Blue-faced Honeyeaters**

and **Noisy Miners** dropped in briefly, screamed "Snake! Snake! Snake!" and took off again. Nothing else was happening so we got on with our day. A bloke had come that morning to install a new screen door between the kitchen and back verandah. At one point I glanced outside and noticed a **Butcherbird** perched on the Hills hoist, close to the bush, looking with great interest at the snake. I turned away again and almost immediately heard a squawk. The snake had the Butcherbird in its coils. The bird must have fluttered down for a closer look, and been grabbed! The bird would have been dead in seconds, I'm sure. But the snake continued to do everything slowly and surely.

The whole process took about 45 minutes. After holding the bird tight for some time, the snake then maneuvered it so it could swallow it head first. Then it slowly moved its head and body over the bird, a few millimetres at a time, with long pauses between moves. Finally the bird was just a lump about 60 centimetres down the snake's body.

I've wondered why it was the butcherbird which got taken, and not another species. Maybe it's because the other birds are often in flocks and therefore warn each other about dangers like snakes.

The butcherbird, on the other hand, hunts solo and perhaps also has the bold curiosity of a predator. An inquisitiveness which might normally be an asset was on this occasion the cause of its death.



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Continued from page 5:  
Commonwealth Corner

## Blogger's defaming of Singapore PM draws \$200,000+ bad news

The blogger whose writings offended the government and was convicted by Singapore's High Court last month for defaming Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong by accusing him in a blog of misappropriating state pension funds, gets another day or two in court this week starting today.

Small comfort that. Roy Ngerng, a 33-year-old now-fired government employee, has a summary judgment against him. It is the first such ruling in the city-state over a purely online article, and raises the prospect of damages of \$200,000 or more. Ngerng said he is already bankrupt and faces more bad news this week.

"My intention has never been to defame the prime minister. It has always been to fight for the CPF (Central Provident Fund), the pension funds of Singaporeans.

Ngerng, who has already admitted that his May 15 blog accusing the prime minister, who is also chairman of state investment fund GIC, of misusing the Central Provident Fund (CPF), was false and without foundation. He offered Sg\$5,000 as compensation to Lee, who rejected the amount.

Ngerng, who writes a blog called Heart Truths, was seeking trial to defend himself but High Court Judge Lee Seiu Kin ruled that there was "no triable defence against the plaintiff's claim".

"There is no doubt that it is defamatory to suggest that the plaintiff is guilty of criminal misappropriation," the judge said in a written ruling.

GIC is a sovereign wealth fund that manages more than \$100 billion of the city-state's foreign reserves. The CPF is the state pension scheme that pools Singaporeans' retirement money.

In June, Ngerng successfully raised more than Sg\$112,000 through crowd funding to fight the case, with over 4,000 people contributing cash.

He is currently facing two criminal charges for staging an illegal march calling for greater transparency in how CPF assets are invested.

Lee's office did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment.

Singapore has consistently ranked high in surveys as one of the world's least corrupt countries, but rights groups say its leaders have used financially ruinous defamation suits to silence critics and political opponents.

Media firms like Bloomberg, The Economist and the Financial Times as well as local opposition figures have previously paid damages and apologized to Singapore leaders including Lee and his father, former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew, 91, for publishing articles found to be defamatory.

Singaporean leaders maintain that the lawsuits are necessary to protect their reputations from unfounded allegations.

Lee, 62, has been prime minister for 10 years. The senior Lee served as premier from 1959, when Singapore gained self-rule from Britain, its colonial ruler, until he stepped down in 1990 in favor of his deputy Goh Chok Tong. Sources – Sumit Galhotra/CPJ Asia Program

## Bird I view

*continued...*

The sequel was we called WIRES to get rid of the snake. There was a delay while the two local volunteers "finished feeding their bats", and then in the late afternoon they arrived, an elderly couple kitted out in long sleeves and boots, with rolls of pressure bandage clipped to their belts and carrying stainless steel crooks. They helped each other carefully over our knee high terrier fence, and peered shortsightedly towards the snake on the bush. We stood back respectfully to see how it was done. "Give it a poke and see what it does", said the wife. The husband did so and the snake reached up to get away onto the garage roof. It was hooked down and wangled into a sack, eventually to be released outside town.

## More from the Women's World Cup!

