

# The Southern Yarn

August 2015

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

## downundercalendar

### AUGUST

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

Starting tee off time is 10.45 am for those playing 18 holes, and 1.00 pm for those playing 9 holes. Cost is \$24 for 9 holes, and \$40 for 18 holes. Juniors pricing is \$21 and \$36. Call Peter at (204) 237-1805 if you haven't done so already to book your tee time for this event.

### 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.



Ah, summer time! Thanks to the Davidson family for being our hosts at this year's pool party. The weather, the company, the food, the pool and the fun were all outstanding. Photos: Brian Hydesmith.

## Take your best shot!

The DUCW is holding a photo contest and invites all members to take their best shot.

We will be choosing the best six (6) images to use for our Club cards. Up till now, we've been using photo-cards from past-member Shannon Mann, with the Club logo and the name of the photographer on the back. However, those photo-cards are almost all gone and the executive decided to give other members the opportunity to submit their own photos.

We are looking for images that relate in some way to the following themes:

**Australian scene** – something typically recognisable as Australian – e.g., outback, beaches, sunrise or sunset over the land or sea or lake, bush, native plants, indigenous culture, wildlife, art, iconic images – could be the Bridge or the Opera House, or a city skyline, Uluru, the Reef – Shannon's image was the Twelve Apostles in SA



**New Zealand scene** – something typically recognisable as New Zealand – e.g., ski-fields, lakes and sounds, sunrises and sunsets, cityscapes, wildlife, bush, native plants, vineyards, Maori culture, art – Shannon's image was a lake and bush scene

**celebration** – suitable for birthday, wedding, special announcement, special event, big achievement – must work for all celebrations – e.g., flowers, plants, trees, sunrises, cheering crowd or happy person (no identifiable faces), fireworks – as an example, Shannon's image was a seeded dandelion in a field ready for someone to make a wish

[... Continued on page 5]

online



find us on facebook or the web  
[www.downunderclub.mb.ca](http://www.downunderclub.mb.ca)  
email: [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca)

## editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day!  
Jenny Gates has presented members with a great opportunity! We all take photos, and I'm sure some of them are exceptional. So why not submit your best and hopefully they can be shared in a very meaningful way. Good luck!

As promised, this month we get to know author Arthur Upfield – a Gallipoli survivor – p.4.

And in the NZNews (p. 3) you'll find another story about Gallipoli – the battle for Chunuk Bair, where Cyril Bassett was the first and only New Zealander to be awarded the VC in the Gallipoli Campaign of the First World War.

Also in that section, be sure to click on the link to the boys of Palmerston North High School doing a Haka as a moving tribute to a teacher who died.

Thank you to contributors this month: Jenny, Jacqueline, Garry, Brian and Murray.

Enjoy!



### Member news ..

#### Jacqueline Cassel-Vernon says...

The kids and I found an Aussie mystery series called "Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries" on Netflix. It's based on the Phryne Fisher mystery novels – and set in 1920s Melbourne. I don't know how historically accurate they are, but the series is fun and family friendly for the 8+ crowd.

Margaret and I were having a conversation today on the dating habits of young (and not so young) people, and recalling the very different circumstances we encountered when we were meeting and dating other young people.

Today, it seems that more and more people are meeting on specific relationship websites. But 15 years ago, a workmate met his future wife on a dating site, and I thought, "That's different!"

But it is not different any more. We all know many people who are in a relationship that began on a dating site. I think, for women especially, it is a great way to meet people. You can meet in the safety of a coffee shop, having some knowledge of the



## president's ramblings

Peter Munn

person in front of you.

Better than when I was socializing on Saturday nights in Melbourne, and standard practice was to head off to a dance somewhere with your mates, in a big hall, band playing good music, young men on one side, young women on the other. Across a dim hall, you made the choice of your potential dance partner, and made

the long trek to ask for the next dance. You knew eyes were on you, and if your request was declined, the agony of the long walk of shame back to your mates. E-Harmony may have sounded good then.

See you at the golf tournament on the 22nd!

Peter

**GARRY O'CONNELL** will be playing with the rest of his Manitoban teammates in the National Lawn Bowls Championships held in Toronto August 16 to 22. They are sending men's and ladies' pairs, triples and 4's teams. The pairs team of skip Gerry Venderbos and lead Garry O'Connell went through the round robin undefeated to capture the provincial pairs title.



## Go Walkabout!

Add-on flights  
are available from  
all major cities.

**WINNIPEG to SYDNEY return \$2064**

01-Aug. – 17-Sept. OR 01-Nov – 30-Nov, 2015

**WINNIPEG to AUCKLAND return \$1923**

01-Aug. – 21-Sept. 2015

**12 Day – Self Drive – AUCKLAND to CHRISTCHURCH \$4476 pp**

Incl:- Rtn Airfare ex Vancouver, taxes, fees, Accom & trsf., 12 day car rental plus 2 cruise tours

**9 DAYS – AUCKLAND, QUEENSTOWN & WELLINGTON ADVENTURE \$3823 pp**

Incl:- Rtn Airfare ex Vancouver, taxes, fees, Accom & trsf. **FREE BONUSES:**  
Zest food tour, Auckland Yacht excursion & Milford Sound nature cruise

Call Sherry, Georgia,  
Jason for details and  
more specials at  
Downunder Travel.

## 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





## Still Australian owned

The iconic Fossil Downs, in WA's Kimberley region, has changed hands for the first time in 133 years. Gina Rinehart out-bid global competitors for the 400,000 hectare station north east of Fitzroy. The Henwood family had owned and operated the property since 1882. [More online].



## Speaking of Australian owned

After extensive consultation with industry and consumers, the Australian Government announced a proposed new country of origin food labelling (CoOL) system on Tuesday 21 July 2015. In addition to a statement about where the food was produced, grown, made or packaged, most Australian food will carry the familiar kangaroo symbol and an indication of the proportion of Australian ingredients by weight through a statement and a bar graph. The new system will also see clearer rules around when food labels can carry 'made in' or 'packed in' statements. [More online.]



## Powerful tribute to respected teacher

I know it has probably been shared extensively via Facebook, but for those who may of missed it this moving story is worth checking out. Michael James, of Triple M 104.9, writes: "Students at Palmerston North Boys' High School in New Zealand performed a spine-tingling haka to honour of a long-serving teacher who passed away earlier this month."

Popular teacher Dawson Tamatea died in his sleep on July 20 having taught at the school since 1986.

The school posted the incredible tribute to Youtube writing: "This was a very emotional and powerful performance. We are extremely proud of our boys' performance and we know that Mr Tamatea would be too." [The Youtube video is here.]



## Auckland SkyPath is a go

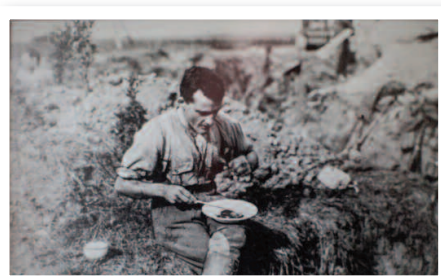
It has been announced that SkyPath, a walking and cycling add-on to the Auckland Harbour Bridge, has been granted resource consent after a long process of proposals and planning.

When completed, the project will connect walkways and cycle lanes on either side

of the Waitemata Harbour, resulting in wider transport choices for Auckland.

SkyPath broke the New Zealand record for the number of resource consent submissions on a public venture. Over ten thousand submissions were received, and 95% of those were in favour.

Dr Sudhvir Singh, spokesperson for Generation Zero - an organisation which encouraged a lot of the public involvement in the resource consent process - says SkyPath is going to be an iconic feature of Auckland. [More online.]



Victoria Cross winner Cyril Bassett, who fought at Chunuk Bair.

## Chunuk Bair is a 'landmark event in New Zealand's military history'

The Battle for Chunuk Bair was the New Zealand Expeditionary Force's most significant action in the Gallipoli Campaign. It was part of the August offensive, in which the Allies attempted to seize the Sari Bair heights from Turkish forces. The Wellington Battalion took Chunuk Bair on August 8 1915, but it, and other New Zealand units involved, suffered very heavy losses - there were over 2500 casualties, including some 876 killed between August 6-10. Of these, 849 are named on the New Zealand Memorial at Chunuk Bair. Chunuk Bair was eventually lost on August 10 after repeated enemy counter-attacks. [More 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



## Arthur Upfield (1890–1964)

I only became aware of Arthur Upfield when a large-print copy of one of his mystery novels, "Wings above the Diamantina", showed up in our little free library (on the back fence). It was a good read and we have retained that copy in case others are interested.

According to the official website [Link], "Arthur Upfield was born in Gosport, Hampshire, England on 1 September 1890. His father, a draper, sent him to Australia in 1911. On 23 August 1914, he joined the First Australian Imperial Force as a Driver with the 1st Light Horse Brigade Train (5 Company ASC [Army Service Corps]). Surviving Gallipoli and trench warfare in France, in 1915 Upfield married an Australian nurse, Anne Douglass, in Egypt. He was discharged in England in 1919, working as a private secretary to an army officer for two years before returning to Australia with his wife and son in 1921.

"Upfield spent about twelve years working at a variety of jobs in the outback where he became fascinated by Aboriginal culture. From his observations of their intrepid survival skills in this harsh environment, he created the character of Detective Inspector Napoleon Bonaparte, who was based on Leon Wood, a half-caste Aboriginal employed as a

tracker by the Queensland Police.

"The trial of Snowy Rowles, convicted of the Murchison Murders, made Upfield a celebrity. Rowles had plotted three murders in the manner of Upfield's criminal in his novel, 'The Sands of Windee', published in 1931. (Rowles was hanged for the murder of Carron in 1932). Upfield's crime novels were taken up by the Crime Club in the US with great success, enabling him to write and travel the country with ease. He led various expeditions for the Australian Geological Society and following some years living at Bermagui, (NSW), he moved to Jasmine Street, Bowral (NSW) with Jessica Hawke. Her 'biography' of Upfield, 'Follow My Dust' (1957) made use of Upfield's extensive, unpublished memoirs. Upfield died in Bowral on 13 February, 1964. 'The Lake Frome Monster', published in 1966, was completed by J.L.Price and Dorothy Stange."

One of Upton's outback jobs was patrolling a 200 mile section of the rabbit-proof fence, between 1928 and 1931- a lonely task, with only camels for company.

### Take your best shot

[cont. from p.1]

**bereavement** – e.g., flower(s), trees, sunset, candle, sky, road or path through tree grove – as an example, Shannon's image was a fall leaf floating away down a brook



**general** – something light and fun that could be interpreted for any occasion – could be a Winnipeg scene, or Canadian scene, your family, a sporting event, cultural event, iconic image, backyard scene, sunset or sunrise, any of the seasons

**miscellaneous** – this is an open category, so anything creative or unique or special focus or humorous or whatever you want to send.

When you send in your photos:

- indicate which category (or categories) you think they are most appropriate for,
- briefly explain why you chose each photo,
- provide a description or caption or the name of the location or image,
- tell us the approximate date it was taken,
- state the name of the photographer,
- let us know the age of the photographer if they are 12 and under, and
- say whether you are open to us also using the photo on our website.

### Rules:

- Open to all DUCW members.
- There is a maximum of three (3) submissions in each category from each photographer.
- Digital photos should be in JPEG (.jpg) format.
- Maximum digital photo file size 2 MB.
- If submitting prints, approx. 4x6 inch format.

The contest will run from August 1 until December 31, 2015.

Submissions should be emailed to [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca) or mailed to Attn: DUCW Photo Contest, PO Box 42067 Ferry Rd, Winnipeg MB R3J 3X7.

Any questions? Call 204-228-9959 or email [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca).

Now go on, take your best shot!

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**





## Nutting out problems in PNG

Papua-New Guinea's betel nut habit embarrassed, as the Pacific Games attracted reps from 23 nations. The problem was a nut – a betel nut.

Betel nut's popularity with the masses (as opposed to the well to-do and rulers in Port Moresby) is viewed as an impediment to Papua-New Guinea's reputation, its commerce and its trade.

The special sting was massive distraction of betel (buai) sales in the capital and surrounding villages during the visit of Oceania competitors from 23 countries participating in the 2015 Pacific Games last month.

Sales and consumption of the betel by the hoi palloi was viewed (by the Port Moresby hoity-toity and government, anyway) as a blight on society and the nation and a shameful distraction for the international visitors.

That said, the games went very well for Papua-New Guinea. The hosts won top total gold in the medals race with 88; New Caledonia got 59; Tahiti 39; Fiji 33; and Samoa 17. Australia and NZ were welcomed to participate for the first time in a couple of events. Australia took home 17 (but had a fewer total points than Fiji) and New Zealand got 1.

Basis of the betel nut scorn is disgust with the street sales. While city authorities are entitled to feel that public consumption resulting is a blight on towns and a risk to public health, it is also a model domestic industry, in terms of the numbers of people it supports, the income generated, and the efficiency of its logistical system.

It was quite predictable that vendors would be cleared from the streets of Port Moresby as part of a clean-up before the South Pacific Games. Alas, little hope is held out for a sensible attempt to solve the dilemma – not of the betel trade itself but of the public consumption of betel nut – while retaining the considerable economic benefits it yields to low-income people.

Papua-New Guinea has a population of 6,746,000, the 20th largest of the 53 Commonwealth nations.

## Commonwealth child marriage edict stirs entrenched societies

The Commonwealth Secretariat last month presented its new edict – the Kigali Declaration – to prevent and end child marriage at their display at the Girl Summit Anniversary,

which was held at the Canadian High Commission in London.

The event, organized to celebrate international efforts over the past year to support girls, provided an opportunity for the Commonwealth to share its work in this area with important partners.

"Until now, we've had no linkages. Each country has been trying to address the issue of child marriage independently. The Commonwealth is trying to introduce these linkages through the Kigali Declaration", said Chief Kyungu from Malawi who participated in a working group to end child, early and forced marriage.

The Commonwealth Human Rights Unit invited human rights experts from Africa and Asia to attend a working session at Marlborough House in London from July 15-22. Over the course of seven days, participants drew up the next phase of action in ongoing efforts to prevent and eliminate this practice.

The session is part of a wider program of work the Commonwealth has undertaken to mobilize a variety of different actors, ranging from national human rights institutions (NHRIs) to grassroots campaigners, to put an end to child marriage. To date, one of the key outcomes has been the Kigali Declaration.

## LUCKY: Surfer survives South Africa shark attack

Australian surfer Mick Fanning, 34, says he has gone back into the ocean after he survived a shark attack last month during a surfing competition in South Africa.

The three-time world champion posted a picture of himself on a beach with a surfboard under his arm. The caption: "First surf back. Feels so good. Surfing by myself but had Andy in my thoughts. Happy Birthday brother".

Andy Irons was a world champion surfer from Hawaii who died in 2010 aged 32 when he suffered a heart attack after apparently taking cocaine. He would have turned 37 on July 24.

Fanning's return to the water comes six days after his terrifying encounter with a shark during the J-Bay Open in South Africa was broadcast live. It attacked his board but the jaws never reached him. Ashore, an emotional Fanning had said he would be "happy to not even compete ever again" and to "walk away" from the sport.

He had adjusted his views by the time he returned to Australia and his home on the Gold Coast.

At a press conference, he described his unscathed escape as a miracle. "I'm doing OK, I haven't got a scratch on me. It's more of

an emotional, mental trauma right now."

Fellow Australian surfer Julian Wilson, who was hailed as a hero for swimming towards Fanning when the shark attack happened, also seems unafraid of getting back into the water.

## UNLUCKY: Daughter watches shark kill father near Hobart

A young woman watched in horror as her father was mauled and killed by a large Great White shark while they were scallop fishing off Tasmania's East Coast in their small runabout.

The circumstance left the 46-year-old man's family devastated and the state's recreational fishing community in shock.

Father and daughter were diving in the early morning for scallops off tiny Lachlan Island near Hobart when the shark struck. The daughter, in her early twenties, was also in the water with her dad and saw the fatal attack.

Police accounts said that when father and daughter went into the water, they collected a number of scallops, the daughter returned to the boat and the father dived for more.

Police said that when he did not surface, his daughter became worried and returned to the water to check on the father.

"She saw a very large shark and she saw her father being attacked ... She immediately returned to the surface, where she raised the alarm by setting off a flare and making an emergency phone call," police said. Nearby boaties responded to the flare.

"They pulled up the man using the air hose that he was attached to, but unfortunately he was fatally injured," police said.

The recreational diver's death was the fifth shark fatality in Tasmanian waters since 1959, the last was 22 years ago. – Sources: SA & Australian papers

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 Royal Canadian geographical Society says there are more than 450 species across Canada, but not one of them has been officially designated as the national bird. So they have created the National Bird Project and are inviting Canadians to vote for a species they believe would best represent them and their land (and skies).

Visit the National Bird Project website and vote now for Canada's national bird!

No doubt the common loon, the snowy owl, the Canada goose and the gray jay will all score high. A less likely candidate is the red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Probably the only thing going for it, apart from the fact that it ranges right across the country, are the males' bright red shoulder patches – a symbolic nod to the Maple Leaf and the Mounties' red serge. *Agelaius* means "belonging to a flock" and *phoeniceus* means "deep red".

The female is quite different – a dusky brown colour with heavy streaking. Pairs generally raise two or three broods a season, building a new nest for each clutch. They can be seen along roadsides wherever there are marshes, wet ditches, etc. – often harassing crows. After they finish their family duties they gather in flocks that can number in the hundreds of thousands.

Downunder, the common blackbird was actually introduced – first in Melbourne in the 1850s – and is now common through south eastern Australia, including Canberra, Adelaide and Tasmania and is now considered a pest. It is also in New Zealand. The



male is all black (but doesn't play rugby) and the female is remarkably like Mrs Red-wing. The scientific name, *Turdus merula*, translates as "thrush" and "black-bird".

You may have heard James Keelaghan singing the popular song called Red-winged Blackbird.

*Thought I heard a red-winged blackbird,  
Red-winged blackbird down my road,  
Thought I heard a red-winged blackbird,  
Red-winged blackbird down my road.*

He'll be there beside the river,  
When Winter finally breaks its bones,  
He'll be king among the rushes,  
He'll be master of his home.

chorus

Safe as Moses in the rushes,  
Builds his home on the river wide,  
Every time I hear him singing,  
Makes me feel like Spring inside.

chorus

He'll be in there singing his heart out,  
He'll be telling me stories too,  
Of where he went to winter last year,  
Of how he's going back there too.

chorus

Lyrics and Music: David Francey  
© 1999 Laker Music



## Board of Directors

President:  
**Peter Munn**  
Vice President:  
**Catherine Bowering**  
Secretary:  
**Margaret Munn**  
Newsletter Editor:  
**Charlie Powell**  
Treasurer:  
**Peter Debenham**  
Social Coordinator:  
**Liz Hydesmith**  
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](mailto: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](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca)  
[www.downunderclub.mb.ca](http://www.downunderclub.mb.ca)  
Like us on facebook!

Proudly printed in Winnipeg by  
Kendrick Quality Printing Ltd.

**MYPD**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**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](mailto:peter@mypd.ca)