

The Southern Yarn

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

November 2015



downundercalendar

NOVEMBER

AGM

*Friday, November 27th, 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

Children's Christmas Party

*Saturday, December 5th
Scandinavian Cultural Centre,
764 Erin St.*

Not only Santa and gifts, but also activities and entertainment for the children. So be sure to send in the names and ages of kids who will be present by contacting Liz Hydesmith at social@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-487-0067. This is a POTLUCK DINNER, and we will need mostly mains, salads and veggie dishes, as well as a few desserts.

FEBRUARY

Australia Day/Waitangi Day

*February 5th, 2016
Scandinavian Cultural Centre,
764 Erin St.*

Details to follow.

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 or on our website.

Advertise in The Southern Yarn.

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



Annual dinner, membership

There was a full house at the SCC for the Club's annual not-so-formal dinner on Saturday 24th October. Chef Michael and staff again treated all to great service and fine dining. At the instigation of Bev O'Connell, everyone stood to introduce themselves before the food was served. That got proceedings off to a lively start. Then the wine (first bottle on the house compliments of the DUCW) and the cash bar helped ensure the atmosphere remained in high gear. A surprise highlight of the night was the presentation by club president Peter Munn of a special Veteran Affairs Canada tribute to club founder Gordon Keatch - see p.4. Thanks to those who invited friends along and also to the General Monash members who joined in. And a special "On ya mate!" to Paul Bakan for his well sung offering of a traditional Ukranian song of gratitude for friendship.

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 27th 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.

NOW IS THE TIME to renew for 2016

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@pdilact.ca or 204-955-0393.

online



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email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day – So quite a few members and other fans have watched quite a bit of rugby recently. My consistent thoughts are, “why don’t they do more passing like that in the CFL!?” and “why can’t CFLers tackle as effectively as that?” I better not get started – but hey, imagine if they could use a cricket bat in baseball – the scoreboard might tick over a little faster! Anyway it was good to have the All Blacks and Wallabies in the final.

Of course most of us know Gordon Keatch pretty well by now, but thanks to the write-up Jenny Gates sent in to Veterans Affairs about him, you might learn a bit more about our esteemed elder statesman – LEST WE FORGET. See p.4. Congratulations, GK!

Thank you also to our other contributors this month: Ed Powell, Judy Powell, Peter Munn, Brian and Murray.

Enjoy!

Thanks to Allan Sharman for inviting interested members of the DUCW – a.k.a. AFL enthusiasts! – to Boston Pizza on Henderson Hwy on Friday night, Oct 2, to watch the AFL Grand Final.

Scandinavian Christmas Market & Café Sunday, November 22, 2015

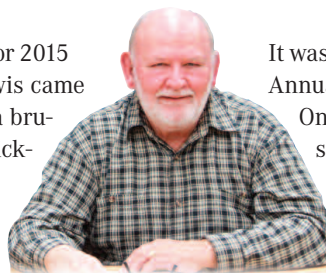
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin Street, Winnipeg
11 am – 2:30 pm

Featuring:

- Café serving Scandinavian delicacies
- Imported Scandinavian Foods & Candy
- Home Baking
- Vendors are selling Viking & Celtic designed jewelry, handcrafted cards, hand knitted items, needle art, woven & machine sewn items, puzzles, garden & unique pet items, Christmas decorations & hand loomed rugs

This is your chance to purchase Imported foods, chocolates, enjoy open faced sandwiches, traditional Scandinavian desserts and do some Christmas shopping.

The Rugby World Cup final for 2015 has been played, and the Kiwis came out on top of the Aussies in a brutally hard fought game at Twickenham. It was a Downunder final for the ages. Our diehard Rugby fans from the Club, and some AFL neophytes, spent many week-end morning hours down at “The Pint” on Garry St., cheering on the green and gold. For the final, the venue was packed like a sardine can with a good contingent from our club, and a multitude of local Rugby fans. One of our members even seemed to have a Kiwi flag for every one of them. The Kiwis were worthy winners.



president's ramblings

Peter Munn

It was good to greet everyone at the Annual “Not so Formal” dinner .

Once again, excellent food was served by Chef Michael, including the delicious smoked lamb dish. We had some newer members at the dinner, it was great to spend some time with them.

Our Annual Meeting is coming up, details are on this page, please make the effort to come along, we need your input to guide the Board for the following year. And if you could volunteer for a position on the board, we will do our best to accommodate you,

Regards,
Peter



Final autumn walks
before the snow flies.
Hydesmith photo.

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WINNIPEG to AUCKLAND return \$1934

01-30 Nov., 2015 OR 01 Feb. - 05 April, 2016

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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience





Lucky Queenslanders

Australian Food News reports that XXXX has launched a limited-edition beer to be sold in Queensland only. 'Origins' includes the name of a different Queensland town on each bottle with locations such as Townsville, Coolangatta and Rockhampton featured. The beer is described as being crisp, low in bitterness and medium in body. It has a 4.2 per cent alcohol volume content. XXXX will sell the beer in Queensland only between the 26 October 2015 and February 2016. [More online]



Remember Major Sumner?

DUCW members got to know him when Tal-kin-jei came to dance at our Folklorama pavilion in 2000 and 2004.

Ed Powell recognized his face on a DVD recently in Adelaide.

Ringbalin: In 2010 Australia was facing the worst drought on history, but the death of



New Zealand's All Blacks earned a well-deserved victory in the World Cup final showdown with Australia. DUCW members including Peter Munn, Judy and Charlie Powell, Grant Hinrichsen and Terry Roberts came out in full force in Winnipeg. Terry carried the flags for the Kiwis. Below, Peter Debenham raises the hopes during one of Australia's stonger moments. Hydesmith photos.

the Murray Darling River had been written much earlier in European management without regard for Australia's realities.

Tired of watching his ancestral home the Coorong die Ngarrindjeri elder Major Sumner united a group of different aboriginal nations from along the river on a 2300 kilometre pilgrimage to sing the spirit back into the river and into themselves. This is the Ringbalin.

By the time they had finished the drought had broken and what followed was the wettest wet season in living memory with floods throughout the basin. In 2011 the Aboriginal families retraced their ritual pilgrimage down the rivers from Southern Queensland to South Australia, and around them the river and the floods had transformed land. But in their lives the same struggles continued, and in the news the rest of Australia had already forgotten how close we all came to killing the river, and running out of water. [More online]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Rugby World Cup

A loyal band of members and friends gathered regularly at The Pint throughout the Rugby World Cup series from England. The numbers swelled for the final on Saturday 31st October to watch the big screen. The All Blacks triumphed over the underdog Wallabies 34 to 17 - Terry Roberts was all smiles...



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Gordon Keatch (again)

To mark the 75th anniversary of significant milestones in the Second World War and proudly recognizing those who bravely served and sacrificed on behalf of all Canadians, and as a tribute to those who served, the Federal Government Department of Veterans Affairs recently awarded a certificate of recognition and commemorative lapel pin for service during the Second World War to Gordon Keatch.

The request to the Department of Veterans Affairs, as prepared by Jenny Gates, read:

On behalf of the members of the Down Under Club of Winnipeg (DUCW), we nominate Gordon Keatch for the Second World War Tribute.

Gordon has made a significant mark on the people of Manitoba. His military service and involvement, volunteer service, and public and community service have continued unheeded for more than 65 years, spurred on by his commitment to the social and cultural well-being of Manitoba and her residents, particularly his fellow Veterans.

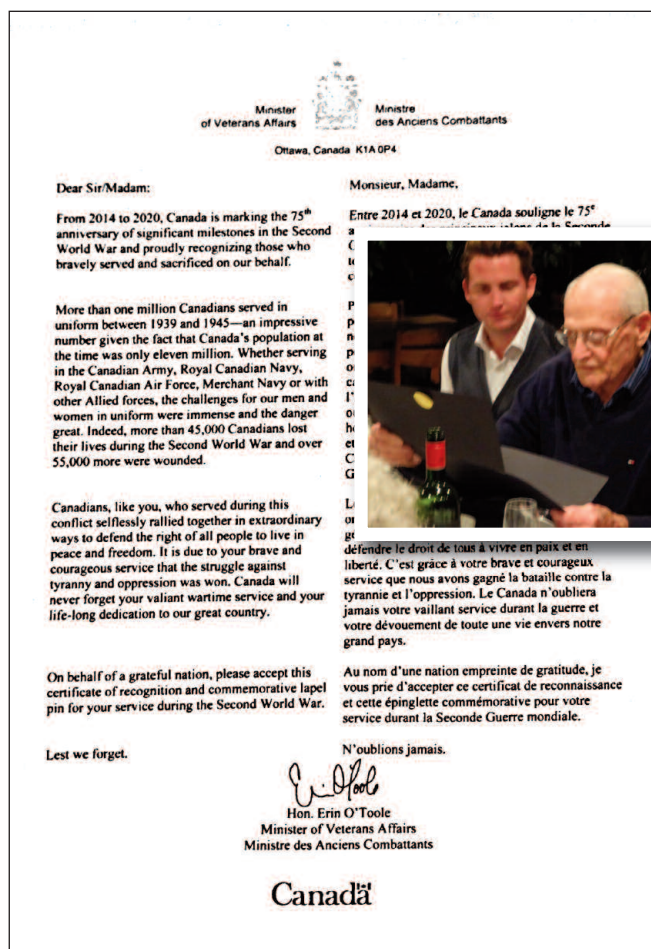
In December 1943, Gordon came to Winnipeg with the Royal Australian Air Force to train under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP). Gordon began military training as a wireless/air gunner, graduating 2nd in his course from #3 Wireless School in Winnipeg. He then proceeded to #5 Bombing and Gunnery School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, where he received his wings and was granted a King's Commission.

Gordon is a key figure in the DUCW's partnership with the General Monash Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Since 1949, he has been Parade Commander and chief organizer of the Annual ANZAC Day Commemoration Service – a national day of remembrance that honours members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who died and served in military operations. The Service is attended by members of the DUCW, the Wartime Pilots and Observers Association (WPOA), the General Monash Branch, and Australian and New Zealand service personnel at the CFB Winnipeg Air Navigation School, as well as members of the general public.

In 1999, Gordon was involved in the commemoration and unveiling of the "Garden of Memories" memorial at Air Force Heritage Park, dedicated to those who trained, fought and died under the BCATP. He later appeared in a documentary of the event, titled "Garden of Memories", and a second video documenting the history and operations of the BCATP, titled "In a Common Cause".

Gordon is a life member of the WPOA, has long supported the General Monash Branch, and is regularly involved in social and official activities at 17 Wing Winnipeg.

Gordon's involvement in the local community is extensive and varied. Under his leadership as co-founder of the DUCW and President for almost 50 years, members have been actively involved in giving back to the community, including the Salvation Army, Children's Aid Society, Easter Seals, Canadian Cancer Society, Siloam Mission, the Manitoba Children's Museum, the Canadian Red Cross, and the Mennonite Central Committee. Since 1958, he has been committed to the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (MTC), serving as President of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the MTC Foundation, and was instrumental in raising money for the Endowment Fund. He has also been involved in official capacities with the St. James School Board, St. James



City Council, Silver Heights Community Club, and Niakwa Country Club.

Gordon Keatch is a true gentleman who is loved and respected for his generous nature, kind heart, relentless community spirit, and commitment to fellow Veterans. We believe he is a worthy recipient of this great honour.

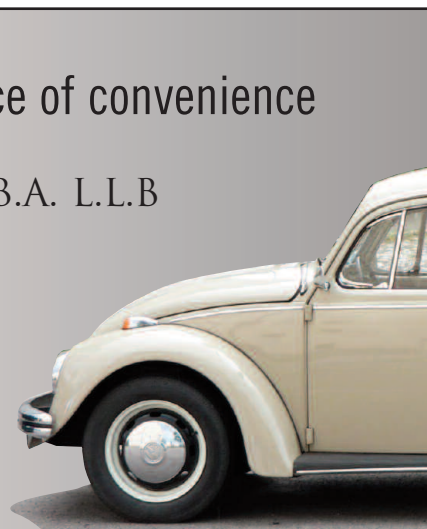
The certificate of recognition and lapel pin were presented to Gordon at the October 24th formal dinner.

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CHOGM this month, anybody heard anything about it?

It's a critical gathering in Malta, Nov 27 to 29. Canada should be well-represented there but doesn't show itself to be very interested. Sad. So much is at stake for our 53 member nations and the world.

Who is in line so far for Secretary General? Few say. Fewer know

As the month starts there are three candidates offering their names as Commonwealth Secretary General candidates to succeed **Karmalesh Sharma**, to be confirmed at CHOGM in Malta this month and take over next April – and nothing has been mentioned in the media out of Ottawa who will represent Canada, the Commonwealth's second largest financier.

There is **Baroness Patricia Scotland**, sponsored by Dominica, supported by Barbados and Belize. Although Dominica born, her career has been in London in law and British politics, being Britain's Attorney General under its last Labour Government. Although well liked, there are a few nays against her candidacy for her support Britain's role invading Iraq.



There is the diplomat, consultant, academic and commentator, **Sir Ronald Sanders**, who is now believed to have the support of seven Caribbean nations. Nominated by Antigua's Prime Minister, Gaston Brown, he has by far and away the broadest Commonwealth experience and background, having played a key role in Commonwealth affairs over many years including in the Eminent Persons Group that reported in 2011 on the future direction and reform of the organization.

There is the academic and politician, **Senator Bhoe Tewarie**. As Trinidad's candidate and the Republic's Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development, he appears to have only emerged as a result of some in the country wishing to deny the candidacy to another Trinidadian.

Top US spy boss exchanges secret chatter with Australian intelligence

US CIA head John Brennan is planning a high-level visit to Australia for a meeting with intelligence and counter-terrorism officials.

US President Barack Obama, is also in the picture to make a rare visit to Australia "very soon." Brennan has also sought a private meeting with Tony Abbott to thank the former prime minister personally for his role in bolstering intelligence and defence ties with the United States.

Brennan was former chief counter-terrorism adviser to Obama. "It would be very significant at any time," the source said. – Source: AFLCIO and Daily Telegraph

Malaysia arrests hacker for supplying US targets to Islamic State

At the request of the United States, Malaysia has arrested a man on charges of hacking personal data of more than 1,000 U.S. officials and passing it on to Islamic State militants in Syria so they could target the individuals.

The man, 20-year-old Ardit Ferizi from Kosovo, who entered Malaysia in August 2014 to study computer science and forensics, will be extradited to the United States, police said.

Malaysian police said the suspect communicated with an Islamic State member in Syria about hacking servers containing information and details of U.S. security personnel.

"The details were then transferred to the operation unit of the IS group for further action," the police said in a statement.

U.S. government experts say that in practice, Islamic State's hacking exploits have been rudimentary and have done little known damage to any targeted institutions or individuals.

In contrast, the group's coterie of cyber specialists is regarded by American and allied government counterterrorism agencies as highly sophisticated in its use of social media to spread Islamic State's message and recruit new members and supporters.

Correct fisheries trade issues

The Commonwealth has called for "coherent global action" to conserve fish stocks and deliver a fisheries trade deal that supports small and developing countries.

The pitch was made at a conference co-hosted with UNCTAD in Geneva, Switzerland.

The three-day Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on Trade in Sustainable Fisheries from Sept 29 to Oct 1 brought together diplomats and leading policy experts from small island nations and developed economies, and will result in a roadmap of practical policy recommendations for governments.

The conference comes days after world leaders in New York agreed a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including a standalone goal to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development".

In a statement, Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Deodat Maharaj said that, if the world is to eliminate overfishing and destructive fishing practices by 2020, a key task will be to translate targets into trade rules at the World Trade Organization.

St. Lucia one of best resort stops

Saint Lucia, that jewel of the islands to windward, as sailors referred to them in Caribbean sailboat cruising,



won another label last month. They were named one of the Top 20 Islands in the World' and six of the island's resorts were included in the Top 40 Resorts in the Caribbean.

The praise came in the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards.

Ultra-luxury Jade Mountain was rated No 1 among the Top 40 Caribbean Resorts, and rated 40 in the Top 100 Hotels and Resorts in the World.

Five more acclaimed Saint Lucia properties appeared on the Top 40 Resorts in the Caribbean including Ladera Resort (#4), Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort (#5), Cap Maison (#21), The BodyHoliday (#22) and Anse Chastanet Resort (#30).

"All of us on the island of Saint Lucia are honored by the response from readers who have visited and been drawn in by the warmth of the Saint Lucian people," said Tourism Minister Lorne Theophilus.

Enjoy.

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.



Juncos

Just as in the spring, when these little seed scavengers are among the first birds to show up in Winnipeg gardens, so it is in the fall that they are about the last to depart back down south. Dark-eyed juncos, including our slate-coloured and the west's Oregon subspecies, winter throughout most of the United States, hence their scientific name *hyemalis* ("of the winter"). They rarely perch and mostly build their well-hidden nest on the ground. So although they are easily recognized, they are for the most part unremarkable – except, that is, for one little claim to fame: apparently folk who like to figure out bird language find these little guys excellent for their study!

So what about downunder? There are no juncos (not of the feathered variety at least), but you will easily view another special-eyed bird: the **silveryeye** (*Zosterops lateralis*) – in both Australia and New Zealand.

And like the juncos, if you stay still enough, silveryeyes will happily go about their foraging close by. Easily recognized by the bright yellowish-green of the upper portions, the silveryeye has a further distinguishing feature – as the name implies – a ring of white feathers around the eyes. They are strongly territorial – their displays of aggressive behaviour include wing-fluttering, beak-clattering and pecking, and straight out chasing. They have a more varied diet than juncos, including grubs, caterpillars, insects, spiders, fruit and nectar (their tongue is brush-tipped). They're often seen burying their slender beak into hibiscus flowers and bottle-brushes. The silveryeye is a colourful bird in more ways than one – among the more common birds, it is a consistent mimic. Its repertoire has been reported to include excerpts from the well known sounds of the whipbird, wagtail, mudlark (peewee), and even the kookaburra!

Dark Eyed Junco – by Christopher Rudolph

Dark eyed Junco
Flitting to and fro
Seeking fallen seeds
On forest floors to stow
Dark gray wings
On winds flap and flow
With white under belly
Puts on quite a show
Flashing white tail feathers
Flying very low
Sitting in a tree for now
Soon hopping about below.



Credit for the following clever poem about silveryeyes belongs to Clarence Michael James Stanislaus Dennis

Down among the strawberries,
Up among the plums,
Cheeping in the cherry-tree
When early autumn comes,
In our silver spectacles
And sober olive suits.
We're very, very innocent;
We wouldn't touch your fruits.

Well, maybe just a speckled one,
A windfall here and there.
But raid your precious strawberries?
Oh no, we wouldn't dare.
Behold our bland astonishment,
The charge is quite absurd!
It must have been a parrot
Or some other kind of bird.

It must have been a satin bird;
It must have been a crow.
It couldn't possibly be us;
We are so meek, you know,
With our silver spectacles.
The accusation's vile!
How can you deem us guilty
When we're whistling all the while?

Well, if you've caught us in the act
There's no more to be said.
The plums are blue and succulent,
The strawberries are red.
And who'd refuse a dainty dish
When early autumn comes?
Oh, write a rhyme about us, man,
And pay for all your plums.



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