

The Southern Yarn

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.



March 2016

downundercalendar

MARCH

Bowling

*Saturday, March 26th, 2016, 7pm
Windsor Park Bowling Lanes
678 Elizabeth Rd.*

Cost will be \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for kids. Includes 4 games, prizes and snacks. RSVP to Terry, 204-663-6549.

APRIL

*Saturday 23rd, 6 PM
ANZAC Day commemoration
Scandinavian Cultural Centre,
764 Erin*

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service, singing of our national anthems, and a delicious POTLUCK dinner. This is always a memorable event, so come and be a part of it, and the fun to follow. And don't forget – the Bar will be open.

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 look for the new **RSVP page** under EVENTS 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.



Tannis and Brian Hydesmith celebrate a bingo at the 2014 DUCW Bingo Bowl Christmas party.

Saturday, March 26th: Bingo!

Many of us know how Bingo Bowling works. But we shouldn't assume that everyone does. It combines the skill of bowling with a bingo grid. It is a team game that is contested over a set of lanes. Each team is assigned to one lane.

The lane is presented with an overhead bingo grid. Like a bingo card, a bowling bingo grid consists of 25 squares. The middle square is still a free space. The other 24 squares consist of possible single frame or single ball bowling scores.

One bowler on the team will bowl a ball. If the outcome of the ball is on the bingo grid, the bowler may accept that result, reset the pins, and the process repeats for the next bowler. Otherwise, a bowler may take up to three balls to achieve one of the needed outcomes.

A turn ends either when a score is accepted, three balls are thrown, or if it is

impossible to achieve one of the needed scores.

The first lane to achieve a total blackout yells BINGO and wins the game.

This game is a race, therefore it is run by a moderator, who gives the signal to start. If there is a pinsetter stop or other trouble, play is stopped by the moderator while the trouble is repaired. The moderator must give the signal to resume after a stoppage.

A square labeled with these scores must be done on the first ball: strike, left, right, head pin, gutter ball, split, aces.

A square labeled with a spare must be completed in two balls.

The following numeric scores are possible and can be done in up to three balls: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15. Of these, 9 is the most difficult to obtain, followed by 6, 8, and 12. [more detail online]



Did you know?

Five-pin bowling is played only in Canada.

It was devised around 1909 by Thomas F. Ryan at his Toronto Bowling Club, in response to customers who complained that the ten-pin game was too strenuous. He cut five tenpins down to about 75% of their size, and used hand-sized hard rubber balls, thus inventing the original version of five-pin bowling. [Source: Wikipedia]



editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day -

Growing up in the northern Brisbane suburb of Sandgate (Queensland, Australia) in the 50s and 60s meant easy access to many great spots for bird watching, particularly the Moreton Bay foreshore, Cabbage Tree Creek, the three lagoons and our backyard. It was on the second lagoon that I first came across the lotus bird - see "Birds I view" on p.6 - turns out they're found throughout tropical regions of the world. Can't wait for climate change to bring them up here to sometimes tropical Manitoba.

Part of that growing up experience was also having to put up with school. One subject that made it less unpleasant was Social Studies because that's where we learnt about early famous explorers like Capt James Cook, Burke and Wills, Ludwig Leichhardt and Jackie, Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, etc.. One that really captured my imagination was Matthew Flinders, (and Trim) who not only was the first to circumnavigate the continent but was also the first to use the name Australia. Later, I enjoyed reading Ernestine Hill's touching biographical novel "My Love Must Wait" about Flinders exploits and his prolonged and forced separation from his sweetheart and wife Ann. So since his birthday is 16th March, he's the one we're "Getting to know ..." this month - see p. 4. I am sure every Australian can name at least one place named in honour of this great hero.

Thanks to this month's other contributors - Peter Munn, Brian Hydesmith, Murray Burt, Ed and Judy Powell AND our advertisers!

Enjoy!



Redcliffe Lagoon also known as Settlement Cove is on the foreshore with views across the Moreton Bay to Moreton Island.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Spring has sprung, or so it seems.

Our mild winter seems to be slipping away into above 0°C temperatures, and unless March brings some surprises, we could be on to an early spring. I have always touted

April as the nicest month in the Winnipeg calendar, we can really appreciate the comparative warmth, tulips and daffodils are starting to peek through, you can spend time outside without being bitten by mozzies, and who doesn't want to get rid of their parka's and scarves.

Hope to see many of you at our bowling night on Saturday March 26th, it's low key, and fun for the whole family,

Regards,
Peter



Liz Hydesmith has been in Newcastle, NSW, this month, visiting family. The new ANZAC Memorial Walk along the beaches is a very nice addition to the city. [More online]

Australia Sale!

Add-on flights are available from all major cities.

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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience



Frewville is on the map

Just 10 minutes southeast of downtown Adelaide, Frewville Foodland now can make a bold claim: "the best supermarket in the world"! Early this month the family owned store won the International Retailer of the Year excellence award at the IGA Conference held in Las Vegas.

The store goes above and beyond with live music, coffee bar, local organic produce, tasting display and cheese bar - setting the standard that others try to follow. The in-store bakery specialises in European loaves and pastries cooked on-site in a hearth oven. [More online]

Speaking of Fruit and Veg.....

Apple and Pear Australia Limited are using cartoon characters "Battler Pear" and "Guru Pear" to communicate that bruised and misshaped pears can still be eaten. The campaign was created after two hail storms hit the Goulburn Valley during the last pear growing season. Battler Pear is printed on packaging with text saying "Weather damaged pears still taste great. Help our growers win their battle to keep growing next season." Guru Pear's message is "Storm damaged pears still taste great. Supporting growers now is good karama". The campaign has seen Woolworths, Coles and IGA all agree to sell the damaged fruit. [More.]



Ornithorhynchus!

The New Daily recently reported the good news that the country's oldest known living platypus has been found in a Melbourne waterway.

The article goes on to say: "The 21-year-old was found during a survey of waterways in Belgrave last year with two young males, indicating reproductive success, Melbourne Water said. Melbourne Water's urban platypus program has run since 1995, partnering with research group cesar in 2007.

The survey of 16 waterways over Spring 2015, found 21 of the egg-laying mammals - two of them entangled in litter.

Platypus ecologist Josh Griffiths said litter was a big threat to Melbourne's platypus population. [More.]



Crowe's close cousin, the actor Russell Crowe, summed it up for many when he described the batsman as "my champion, my hero, my friend".

[More online here, here and here.]

Birders' delight

Samantha Gee of Fairfax Media reports that the population of kakariki (or New Zealand parakeets) in the Abel Tasman National Park has been given another boost with 16 of the yellow-crowned parakeets released into the park this week.



Over the last two years a total of 38 kakariki have been released into the park as a result of the Project Janszoon and Department of Conservation breeding program.

Project Janszoon ornithologist Pete Gaze said while a small population of wild kakariki existed in the park they had disappeared from the lowland forests where they used to be common and there was now a focus on re-establishing the population.

"Now after our releases you walk into Wainui Hut and you will hear kakariki several times, Gaze said. "You encounter them more and more." [More online.]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



1983 file picture of Martin Crowe acknowledging the crowd after making a century. (NZ Herald)

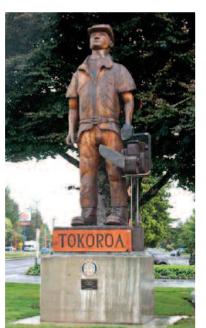
He was a champion, a hero, a friend. Martin Crowe, New Zealand's greatest test cricket batsman, died in Auckland after a prolonged battle with lymphoma.

The 53-year-old cricketing legend's death was a shock to many, despite his lengthy illness. There was palpable in the outpouring of grief from friends, family and the cricketing community.

Who wouldn't want to move to Tokoroa?

Doctors, it seems

Dr Alan Kenny is desperately trying to get a young GP to share his workload. However, even the potential income of NZ\$400,000 + has not been enough to attract any applicants to take up the offer in the rural community. The position was advertised as being four days a week with 12 weeks' annual leave. Read more - then apply! [More.]



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Matthew Flinders

16th March 1774 – 19th July 1814

The first to circumnavigate Australia and thus prove it to be a continent.

1774

born in Donington, Lincolnshire, England

1789

joined the Royal Navy

1790

sailed as a midshipman with Captain Bligh on HMS Providence transporting breadfruit from Tahiti to Jamaica

1795

Flinder's first trip to Port Jackson, NSW, as a midshipman on HMS Reliance with Governor John Hunter. He proved to be a fine navigator and cartographer.

Sails with his good friend and ship's surgeon George Bass in "Tom Thumb" from Port Jackson to Botany Bay

1798

Lieutenant Flinders given command of the Norfolk and names Bass Strait then continues south around Van Diemen's Land

1799

Sailed the Norfolk to Moreton Bay, stepped ashore at Clontarf and named Redcliffe Trim (the cat)* born aboard the Reliance 1800: Returned to England

1801

Commander Flinders given command of the Investigator to chart the coastline of New Holland

17th April Flinders married his longtime friend Ann Chappelle, but was not allowed to take her with him on the Investigator despite desperately trying to. So she was obliged to remain in England and would not see Matt for 9 years! Hence Ernestine Hill's novel title "My Love Must Wait".

Trim* (the cat) however was allowed to stay on the ship.

Due to the scientific nature of the expedition, Flinders was issued with a French passport, despite England and France being then at war.

1802

8TH APRIL while heading east along the southern coast, he meets up with the French explorer Nicolas Baudin. They have a scientific chat and Flinders names the place Encounter Bay.

9TH MAY Flinders arrives back in Sydney and is rejoined by Bungaree, the aboriginal man who had sailed with him in 1799.

22 JULY after a quick refit, the Investigator heads north up the Queensland coast, through Torres Strait and does a detailed survey of the Gulf of Carpentaria. Then, due to leaky timbers, Flinders was forced to make haste around the rest of the western and southern coast, arriving back in Sydney on 9th June 1803

1803

17TH DECEMBER – on his way back to England and Ann, ship problems forced him to stop in at Mauritius where the suspicious French commander detained him for 7 years, despite his French passport (and a pardon from Napoleon in 1806).

1810

OCTOBER, he finally arrives back home – in poor health, but determined to complete his maps and atlas, and catch up with Ann – they have one daughter, Anne, born 1st April 1812

1814

19TH JULY, died in London aged 40.

* The kitten, named Trim, fell overboard, but managed to swim back to the vessel and climb aboard by scaling a rope; taking note of his strong survival instinct and intelligence, Flinders and the crew made him their favourite. Trim sailed with Flinders on HMS Investigator on his voyage of circumnavigation around the Australian mainland, and survived the shipwreck of the Porpoise on Wreck Reef in 1803. When



Flinders was accused of spying and imprisoned by the French in Mauritius on his return voyage to England, Trim shared his captivity until his unexplained disappearance, which Flinders attributed to Trim being stolen and eaten by hungry slaves.

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It's time to choose the NZ flag design you want to wave

It's your choice, Kiwis. The new flag or the old. This is the month you select it.

In the final referendum, eligible voters are being asked to choose between the current New Zealand flag and the Silver Fern flag (black, white and blue), which was chosen as the preferred alternative flag in the first referendum on the issue.

Being out of the country doesn't mean you should miss out on having your say on the flag choice. Check the out-of-country voting drill at your nearest NZ High Commission or embassy.

Another big Christchurch quake

Christchurch, NZ, was shaken awake again last month. There were harrowing near misses but the city emerged (Feb 15) from a magnitude 5.7 quake with no deaths and little major damage.

The quake, five days from the fifth anniversary of the worst quakes there ever, was centred offshore 31 kilometres deep and 15 kilometres east of the city.

Tremors were felt around the South Island, and in Wellington, the capital, on the North Island.

It's a change of direction: Australians migrating to NZ

Consistent political stability and strong economic performance are reasons people want to live in New Zealand and are moving there from Australia.

More people are making the move from Australia instead of the other way around for the first time in decades as Kiwis achieve a buoyant economy and are joined by foreigners in search of work.

New figures from Statistics New Zealand, show 25,273 people migrated east across the Tasman Sea in 2015, compared to 24,504 who went the other way. This net flow of 769 to New Zealand is the biggest since 1991 and the number of people coming to Australia is the lowest since the same year.—Source: The Age

Pacific islands set up cybercrime platform to beat threat

Law enforcement, legal officers and government officials, from across the Commonwealth Pacific region, met in Nuku'alofa,

Tonga for three days last month to tackle deepening concerns around cybercrime.

There are growing worries that cybercrime poses a major obstacle to socio-economic development, peace, and stability. Cross-country collaboration by the member states, which includes assistance from international agencies, is hoped to enhance individual country responses to the disturbing growth of advanced cybercrime in resource-constrained environments.

Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Josephine Ojiambo said cybercriminals do not respect national boundaries.

Recent research points to the cost of cybercrime climbing to as much as \$2.1 trillion by 2019.

— Source: Commonwealth Secretariat

Vanuatu parliament



Vanuatu election conduct gets just a passing grade

More than 200,000 voters across Vanuatu's many island communities cast ballots in a snap election that international observers have described as successful despite challenges in the lead-up to the polls.

The country's Parliament was dissolved in November by President Baldwin Lonsdale after 14 MPs, including a former prime minister, were jailed for bribery.

Vanuatu, a cluster of western Pacific Islands is 41st in size of the 53 Commonwealth nation members.

The political breakdown in the capital, Port Vila, followed a period of instability with four changes of prime ministers in the past four years. A total of 264 candidates were vying for 52 seats. Foreign election observers remained until well after the vote.

Hubert Ingraham, the former prime minister of the Bahamas, was chairman of the Commonwealth Observer Group monitoring the election. He said they "went fairly well" in the country of more than 80 remote islands.

On Oct 21, Vanuatu's Deputy Prime Minister Moana Carcasses was sentenced to four years in jail for bribery and corruption, joining 13 other MPs — or half of the country's government — in being sentenced to three or

more years in jail.

As one of two former prime ministers jailed in the scandal, Mr Carcasses was found to have made cash payments amounting to 35 million vatu (\$452,000) to his fellow parliamentarians last year while in opposition.

Vanuatu, which gained independence in 1980 and has an estimated population today of more than 270,000, is still recovering from a deadly category-five storm a year ago that destroyed homes and crops and contaminated water supplies.

India dramatically addresses mass sterilizing of women

India is stepping back from its practice of wholesale birth control. It is changing the methodology. Years and years of mass laparoscope snipping of the fallopian tubes of the young and poor women, about four million a year, is being replaced.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is liberalizing the process. It is introducing injectable contraceptives free of charge in government facilities, following the long standing recommendations of the World Health Organization and international organizations, among them the US Agency for International Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It favors that process without restriction for women of childbearing age.

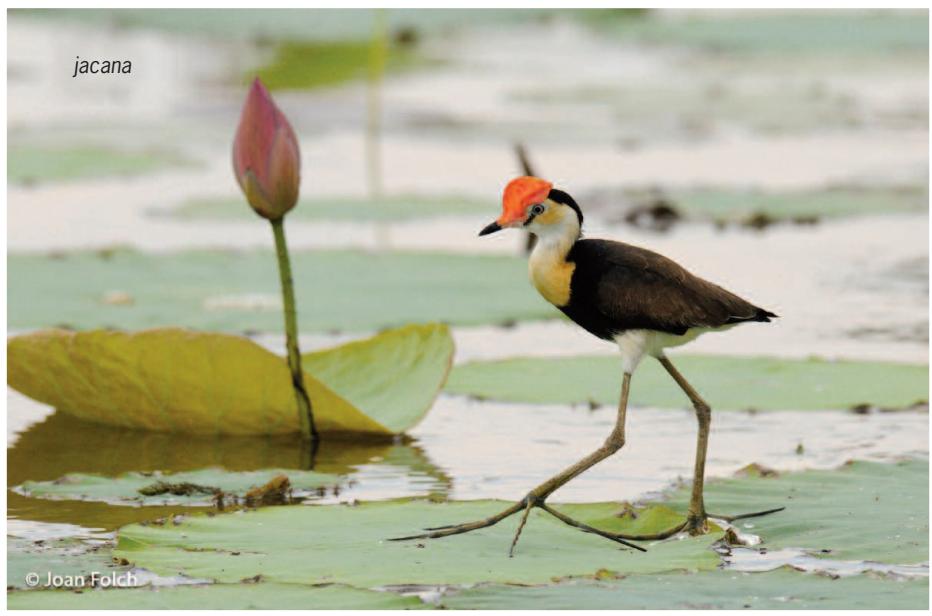
Family planning takes on new meaning.

A thorough New York Times article last month reported that the number of lives touched by such policies is enormous and growing. "India will soon surpass China as the world's most populous nation, and by 2050 it is expected to gain 400 million new citizens, more than the population of the United States," it said.

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.



Lotus bird

I guess every bird, in fact every creature, has some unique distinguishing feature; for me one of the most fascinating is the lotus bird or comb-crested jacana. Its claim to fame is the ability to walk on floating debris and vegetation and they can be found worldwide within the tropical zone.

I first witnessed them in action on Sandgate's "second lagoon" in the 60s walking on the leaves of water lilies.

Their secret lies in the extreme length of their toes and toenails – the longest, relatively, of any bird in the world. And because of their mode of transport, they've acquired the nicknames of lily-trotter, lily-wader and Christ-bird – since at times the leaves are submerged and they appear to be walking on the water.

In appearance they probably resemble the plover most, and in fact also have spurred wings. They are brownish on the back and wings, black on the chest and back of the neck, and white on the throat and tail. In addition to these normal colours, they have a bright scarlet comb, a beautiful margin of pale orange to the whiteness of the throat, and some red and yellow about the beak.

An additional rare feature of the lotus-bird is its characteristic of carrying its young beneath its wings, especially as a protective measure when it senses danger.

Its nest is made of water weeds and other vegetation arranged on a broad floating. It is thereby safe from predators on the land.

They can also dive underwater to escape danger, despite the absence of webbed feet. They feed on insects and invertebrates.

You can watch one in action online.

And there's even a poem about the jacana:

Portrait of Jacana - the Christ bird
By Soulo

Lily breaths of billabongs
submerged within a wetland's throng
Wears rippled bangles round her stalks
Jacanas step in Christ-like walk

Cyan shades of wetland hues
Lotus curves to tranquil views
Muted in the dusk or dawn
A perfect cup in Holy form

Pristine innocence of bloom
Face upturned to Tropic's moon
or closed to sleep sheathed dignity
Will wake and sleep in trinity

Jacanas wearing bleeding crowns
Walk with faith on flooded ground
Whilst Lotus lifts her leaves in prayer
the dragons pierce aquatic layers

[source online]



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