

The Southern Yarn

June 2016



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

SUNDAYS

*Touch Rugby, 3:30 - 5:30pm
River Heights School,
1350 Grosvenor Ave*

Weekly training and games. Come for a run, learn something new and better yourself while having fun. Newcomers always welcome! For more information, visit [www.facebook.com /Winnipeg-Touch-Rugby-1586871974967332](http://www.facebook.com/Winnipeg-Touch-Rugby-1586871974967332).

JULY

*Annual Pool Party and Potluck
Sunday 24th July, 2 - 6 pm
Jason and Lynley Davidson's
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

AUGUST

Golf Tournament (date t.b.a.)

SEPTEMBER

Retro Club night (date t.b.a.)

RSVP

Let us know you are coming, RSVP to (Liz) social@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-487-0067 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 or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.



High Commission hits the road

First Secretary and Consul Melissa Stenfors from the Australian High Commission in Ottawa gave an informative presentation at an evening event in Winnipeg on May 30th. A good turnout of interested members and others learned what services the AHC staff can and cannot provide. She and Connie Reid stayed in town on May 31 to conduct interviews for Aussies who require a new passport, first passport, or renewed passport. Depending on demand, there may be later return visits.



DUCW members attended a seminar led by Melissa Stenfors (right) from the Australian High Commission.

online



find us on facebook or the web

www.downunderclub.mb.ca

email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,

I was searching for interesting stories to share with readers and came across an interesting one about Rachel Pratt who, 100 years ago, lied about her age so she could serve as a nurse in WW1. I hope you can follow the link in OZ News, p. 3, to read the full story.

Many members will have many memories associated with the DUCW – one of mine is of the few years we had an indoor cricket team. One of our stars back then was Pat McGrath (since moved back to NZ). I heard he and partner Robyn were in town for a brief visit with friends recently – just when I had to head out of town! So I only had time to phone for a catch-up chat – but that was good.

Keep sending in your news and doings for sharing with other members. We are featuring more of the Photo Contest selections again this month – see p.4. And Flickers are the subject of Birds I View on p.6.

Thanks to this month's other contributors – Jenny Gates, Peter Munn, Brian Hydesmith, Murray Burt AND our advertisers!

Enjoy!



Touch rugby is a minimal contact sport for all skills levels, abilities, and degrees of fitness. All members of the public are invited to participate, and there is no cost to play. The Winnipeg group is open to both men and women, with a minimum age of 18. Newcomers are more than welcome!

Simply show up and learn a new sport with minimal rules.

It is one of the rare collective sports that girls, boys, women and men enjoy together and against each other, with mixed competition making Touch very popular for every age category.

Weekly training and games will be held from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm at River Heights School at 1350 Grosvenor Ave.

For more information, visit their Facebook page [link] .

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



I am enjoying the sunshine in between the erratic rainfall we have had recently, although the forecast for the next two weeks has only one wet day in a run of sunny weather. Went golfing over this past weekend on Hecla Island with some of the original players of a company golf tournament that began many years ago. The company has long since departed back to the States, but every June for 37 years a bunch of us have teed up for a weekend of golf at

Hecla, and rehashing old stories. The tournament originally had a total of 90 players, and steadily dipped down about 10 years ago to maybe a dozen faithful or less, but there is now a new generation (our children and their friends), that are taking the count to 40 players per day, about the upper limit of what we are comfortable with organizing. Most people camp or rent one of the basic cabins available there. One advantage of all the younger people being there is that the noise police spend all their time quieting them, and leave "the older generation" alone.

Regards,
Peter

Youth exchange programs

High school and university students are encouraged to explore opportunities to travel overseas for cultural, language and education opportunities. Rotary International is sending two Winnipeg kids to Europe for a year. Sarah Struthers (left) will go to Denmark, while DUCW member **Eliza Hydesmith** (centre) will attend school in Belgium. Her mother Liz (right) was a Rotary exchange student from Newcastle, Australia to Germany, way back in 1982.



Go Walkabout!

Add-on flights
are available from
all major cities.

WINNIPEG TO SYDNEY return C\$1738
01 Jun - 26 Jun 2016 or 24 Jul - 30 Nov 2016

WINNIPEG TO AUCKLAND return C\$1435
01 Jun - 26 Jun 2016 or 24 Jul - 30 Nov 2016

CHRISTMAS IN THE COOK ISLANDS C\$3699 p/p
Rtn Airfare ex Winnipeg, all taxes, fees & fuel surcharges,
Rtn Airport trsf, 12 Nights 3.5 Star Accom, Daily Breakfast
Complimentary resort activities, incl. kayaking & snorkeling

All fares based
on availability
and subject
to change.

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

Downunder TRAVEL

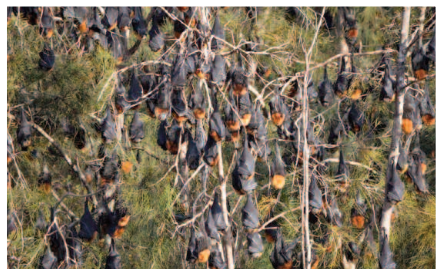
(403) 270-4414 Phone

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



Driven batty!

ABC News reported on 23rd May that the NSW government is describing the problem of up to 100,000 flying foxes in the Bate-man's Bay area as a "state of emergency". It has become so bad that residents have to daily wash their cars, decks and anything else left out overnight.

The local council and its consultants are considering several options to make the bats as uncomfortable as possible in attempts to deter them from hanging around. [Read more online.]

New Superhero Downunder

"Cleverman" is the creation of Ryan Griffen and is debuting as a series on ABC TV (Aus) this month. The concept of the "cleverman", a respected member of a clan who is gifted with special abilities, was resurrected by Griffen as a way to help his nine year old son to navigate life as an indigenous Australian. Actor Hunter Page-Lochard plays the role of Koen, the Cleverman. [Read more online.]



A Great Aunt

The Hamilton Spectator reported a story on 11th April 2015 about Sister Rachel Pratt, born 18th July 1874 at Mumbannar, Victoria,

Australia. Her great niece, Rachel Malseed, researched information about her namesake - she found this quote: "The war is awful, and I simply cannot discuss it, but our boys are splendid and though novices to begin with in war's grim school, have done, and are still doing the work of veterans. The papers are full of their praises and well they deserve it." [Read her story online.]



battles; it would be hit only once; and that no one on board would be killed." [Read more online.]



newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Better than a rabbit's foot

The traditional flax piupiu skirt was seen as the item of luck that saw the battleship HMS New Zealand survive the Battle of Jutland.

Legend has it that the Maori chief presenting the piupiu made three prophecies - that the ship would be involved in three sea

Getting hot feet

It was reported recently that scientists have discovered a buildup of magma about 10 kilometers below the small NZ coastal town of Matata (200 kms southeast of Auckland). [Read more online.]

kiwifoodbox

For our Kiwi members, Ethan Gordon wants to introduce you to a new monthly subscription box catering for those Kiwi expats across the world who miss that taste of home. Wanna know more? Check out their website - kiwifoodbox.com

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



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

Our photo contest winners

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos, and congratulations to the winners! Here are some selections, and we'll feature more here in the months to come and on our line of greeting cards.



Toby Elson

Standing Proud. 12 Apostles, Victoria, Australia. Maori Carving. Whakarewarewa Thermal Village, Rotorua, New Zealand. Horseshoe Falls, Tasmania, Australia. Jan/Feb 2006.

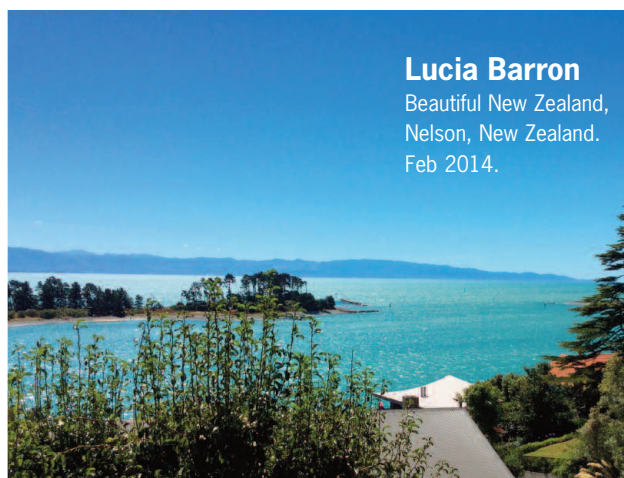


Emmanuel Goffi

Kookaburra. "We love this bird." Australia Zoo, Beerwah, Queensland, Australia. Oct 2006.

Lucia Barron

Beautiful New Zealand, Nelson, New Zealand. Feb 2014.



Bashir Khan and Kusum Weerathunga

Magnetic Island. The view from Castle Hill overlooking part of Townsville toward Magnetic Island, Queensland, Australia. May 2013.





Lots to shout about before the Aussie polls open July 2

It's going to be a noisier Australian federal election than usual. In the first hours the hot issues were piling up, not the least of these the fact that it's an extended eight-week long campaign.

It wasn't many hours old when talk began about the death of up to a third of the nation's iconic Great Barrier Reef, and more is dying. It's a climate change thing. The corals die when the water warms, as it is now doing.

The Opposition was quick to make a battleground issue of the natural wonder as Labor announced its \$500-million plan to protect the natural wonder from the "disastrous" effects of climate change.

It faces a non-contradictory caution as the battle began

A federal election will determine who will fill the 226 seats of the 45th Parliament of Australia. It will be settled on Saturday, July 2, the first double dissolution since the 1987 election.

Elections in Australia use a full-preferential system in one vote, one value single-member seats for the 150-member House of Representatives (lower house) and is changing from full-preferential group voting tickets to an optional-preferential single transferable vote system of proportional representation in the 76-member Senate (upper house). Voting is compulsory.

By Westminster convention, but subject to constitutional constraints, the decision as to the type of election and its date is for the prime minister, who advises the governor-general to set the process in motion by dissolving the lower or both house(s) and issuing writs for election.

Newspoll analysis showed the Coalition faces the loss of 19 seats across NSW, Queensland and Western Australia underscoring Finance Minister Mathias Cormann's alert that "every single vote matters" in this election.



Kakapo *Strigops habroptila* "Trevor" feeding on ripe poroporo fruit. Maud Island, New Zealand.

NZ's Kakapo parrots begin rebound from near-extinction

They are the world's heaviest parrots, but the once prolific New Zealand Kakapos fell upon hard times, despite their appeal to native Maoris as good food.

But predators imported into NZ with European migrations – cats, dogs, stoats, ferrets – took the biggest toll, to the point where the big parrots were believed to be extinct until about the 1970s.

This is when a recovery program was established. Today there are 123 adult birds under protected care.

Each adult kakapo is monitored closely and has its own tracking device that tells the scientists when the bird moves, mates, feeds and lays eggs. The device also signals when the mother gets on and off eggs and for how long. All data is sent to the email inboxes of relevant staff at kakapo operations bases via satellite.

The critically endangered kakapos do not breed easily. They do so only once in two to five years, when there is a good crop of fruits of the rimu tree (*Dacrydium cupressinum*). This year, the fruits' supply has been good, scientists say, which is helping the big birds. The breeding season began in October 2015 and the last chick hatched on April 8.

But young kakapos are vulnerable and the coming weeks will be crucial, scientists say. Conservationists will monitor and weigh the chicks regularly until they fledge at around 10 weeks old, according to a statement by the New Zealand government. If the chicks find it difficult to survive in the wild, they will be brought in for hand-rearing, the statement added. –Sources: The Guardian and original article by Shreya Dasgupta

Japan, Australia address South China Sea claims

Things are going to get rougher, or at least more tense, in the South China Sea as Australia adds voice and a warship to a more and more threatening situation provoked by

China's "shoo tactics" and buildup of bases in regions it lays questionable claim to.

Canberra's move would seem to be a response to this and the US request to neighboring allies to flex a bit more visibly. This no doubt is inspired by China's increasingly militaristic and physical presence in the Spratlys and international waterways that Beijing military is claiming as its own turf.

But Author Tomohiko Satake, a Senior Research Fellow at National Institute of Defence Studies, Tokyo, wrote last month that "despite their political support for the operations, it seems that neither Tokyo nor Canberra are willing to put their support into direct action."

"Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe explicitly ruled out the possibility of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) directly engaging with the FON operations early on, although he did not deny the possibility of the SDF being dispatched to the South China Sea in a future contingency."

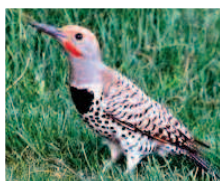
"And while Australia has reportedly considered conducting its own freedom of navigation exercise, the Turnbull government has so far avoided provoking China – its top trading partner – by more than orally expanding its military intentions in the region."

But that notwithstanding, Satake writes, Japan and Australia are not indifferent, nor 'free-riding' on US efforts to resolve the South China Sea issue. Instead, both countries have gradually enhanced their defence engagement with Southeast Asia, to provide indirect but more substantial support to US FON operations than direct engagement.

This enhancement strategy seems to consist of three elements: enhancing their presence, expanding partnerships and coalition-building.

Read about **friction between Malaysia and Philippines over Sabah**, on the electronic version of The Yarn.

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.



Flickers and friends

(thanks to the Elson family for this suggestion)

You will mostly see these handsome birds feeding on the ground – digging up ants, beetles and grubs

with their long beaks. Flickers are actually woodpeckers (Family: Picidae), but unlike most of their cousins, they migrate.

I had often observed flickers feeding in the backyard and on the boulevard, but it wasn't until I found a bright yellow feather on my walk to work that I discovered they are quite colorful. I had looked at all the yellow birds in my Audubon Society Field Guide and couldn't find a match for this part of the continent.

It was a friend, who had obviously seen them in flight, who suggested the flicker (*Colaptes auratus auratus*). Further west these wing lining feathers are more of a salmon colour (*Colaptes auratus cafer*).

About the only time you will hear them doing what typical woodpeckers do is when they're in the courting mood – then they'll hammer away on dead wood or tin roofs.

You won't find any woodpeckers in Australia. My theory is that they tried pecking a hole in the gum trees but packed up and left because a) the wood is too hard, b) koalas get very aggressive if you disturb their daytime slumber and c) all the existing tree hollows were already occupied by parrots, bats, owls and kookaburras.

New Zealand is also woodpeckerless. It still has the kaka, a large parrot that can rip



Painting by J.G. Keulemans of a female, a male, and a white female. [Link]

into soft, dead or rotting wood for the grubs inside. And it used to have the spectacular huia, the male of which was equipped with a beak that allowed it to get at wood borers.

It's an all too common sad tale that these regal birds were driven to extinction by careless hunting for their plumage and by deforestation.

A Northern Flicker poem by Monica Glickman [Link]

Gentle woodpecker
wears a coat of patterned velvet
in cream, brown and black
streaked red like the setting sun
many-voiced visitor
drums like a chain saw
chortles a throaty chuckle
peals a piercing greeting
flying call
cascades
like flowing
water
mystery sound on the wing
surprises and delights.



Board of Directors

President:
Peter Munn

Vice President:
Catherine Bowering

Secretary:
Margaret Munn

Newsletter Editor:
Charlie Powell

Treasurer:
Peter Debenham

Social Coordinators:
**Liz Hydesmith, Joanne Debenham,
Lucia Barron**

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

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

www.downunderclub.mb.ca

Like us on facebook!

Proudly printed in Winnipeg by
Kendrick Quality Printing Ltd.

Malaysia rejects Philippines' claim over Sabah

The Kuala Lumpur government has made it absolutely clear it will not entertain any discussion about removing Sabah from the Malaysian family of states.

The point was made very forcefully late last month after the election in the Philippines of Rodrigo Duterte as president, who raised the issue.

Duerte has said he would advance the Philippines's claim to Sabah, a Malaysian entity on the northeast corner of Borneo facing the Philippines. He also said he would recognize the claim of the so-called Sulu sultanate.

This related to the fact in 2013, that followers of Sulu Sultan Jamalul Kiram intruded into Lahad Datu to stake their claim over the area, which led to bloody encounters with Malaysia's security forces

The Foreign Ministry went on record immediately after the Duarte remarks to reiterate its stand that it will not acknowledge or entertain any claims on Sabah.

Its statement said that it had taken cognisance of claims made by certain quarters in the mass media in Sabah recently, but added:

"Sabah has been recognized by the United Nations and the international community as being part of Malaysia since Sept 16, 1963," the statement said.

"We will not acknowledge or entertain any claims on Sabah," the Foreign Ministry said.