

# The Southern Yarn

July 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

## downundercalendar

### 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**  
**Saturday 20th August**  
**at The Players**  
**2695 Inkster Blvd.**

Tee time is 10:45 for 18 holes;  
or 1pm for 9 holes.  
Call Peter Munn at 204-237-1805  
to book your entry.

### SEPTEMBER

**Retro Club night**  
**Friday 16th September**  
**at Peter and Joanne Debenham's**  
**584 Wallace Ave.**

A nostalgic return to how Club nights used to be.

### 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.



Our club tournament may not be at the Hamilton Island Golf Club in Australia (pictured here), but it will still be fun!

## Golf Day

### Saturday 20th August

That is the date of our annual Down Under Club Golf Tournament at "The Players" golf course, located at 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. We have a great time at this course which caters to every range of golfer. You have the opportunity to play either 9 or 18 holes, and both groups finish together, and join at the open air clubhouse following the round for the awards ceremony, and a burger and refreshment. Call Peter at (204) 237-1805 if you haven't done so already to book your tee time for this event. Our honoree golfer Vince will be joining us this year.

## Wine & Dine

### A Taste of the Commonwealth

A few of us joined Murray Burt, president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society, and his wife Betsy, at a fundraiser for their group. It was titled "A Taste of the Commonwealth", and held at the Manitoba Liquor Commission facility at Grant Park. Wines, beers and liquors from different Commonwealth countries were featured, discussed, and tasted, along with some great cheeses and meats selected by the society. As in most wine tastings, water and individual spittoons were provided to guests to ensure the veracity of our findings. Our leader from MLCC was the very pleasant Kathy Boulthbee, and she shared her knowledge with us during the evening. Following the tastings, a range of mixers and garnishes were available along with the liquors, and some neat cocktail combinations were born. *Peter Munn.*

online



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## editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,

Time to set the record straight on a very important issue ...

"In October 2006, an Australian news company reported that Vegemite had been banned in the United States, and that the United States Customs Service had gone so far as to search Australians entering the country for Vegemite because it contains folate, a B vitamin approved as an additive in the United States for just a few foods, including breakfast cereals. The story appears to have originated as an anecdote by a traveller who claimed to have been searched by U.S. Customs and a spokesperson for Kraft made a misinformed comment to reporters. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration later stated that there were no plans to subject Vegemite to an import ban, or withdraw it from supermarket shelves. The United States Customs and Border Protection tried to dispel the rumour, stating on its website that "there is no known prohibition on the importation of Vegemite" and "there is no official policy within CBP targeting Vegemite for interception". The story of the "ban" later took on the status of urban legend. While Vegemite has never been popular in the US, it can still be purchased at supermarkets that stock imported food items. See "Getting to know" for more interesting facts about our favourite spread, courtesy of Wikipedia

Birds I View on p.6 is the uniquely Australian Kookaburra.

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

Enjoy!

## president's ramblings

Peter Munn



I'm not such a great gardener as I once was. Back in the last Ice-Age when I was about 9, 10 or so, and living in a Victorian Housing Commission flat in North Fitzroy with my mother and brother, I broke ground next to the fence, added a whole whack of blood and bone, watered and eventually brought to fruition some nice size vegetables, especially my beetroot. I could have entered them at

the Royal Agricultural show at Flemington for a certain prize. However, since then, things have gone downhill. There are disadvantages when your garden plot only receives sunlight until 11am, and then huge trees block the sun for the remainder of the day. For the past few years, I have resorted to growing spuds, because they always put on a show of greenery, so that even if the crop is pretty poor, as it was last year, it looks as though you know what you are doing. Right now, the tops are growing at a good pace, and I can wait 3 months to see whether things look as good underground.

Regards, Peter

## 100 years ago: Treasures unearthed under St James

Brittany Keogh of the NZ Herald reports: An array of artefacts have been found beneath the floorboards of the historic St James theatre as it undergoes a transformation, unearthing secrets of the city's past.

Countless Aucklanders have sat in its storied auditorium during the last 80 years without realising hidden treasures, some of which date back to the 1880s, had been buried right under their seats. Gin bottles, meat hooks and Victorian ceramics are among the relics which have been found. Many are completely intact and well preserved, as if, says Auckland Council heritage adviser George Farrant, the people who worked there, "sort of dropped it and walked away". [More online.]



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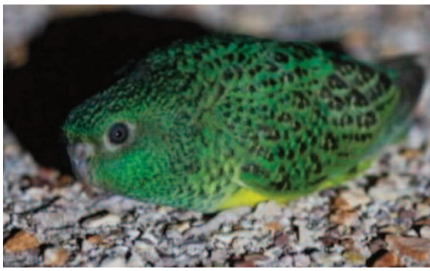
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## Making a comeback

ABC News reported last month some good news about the night parrot, thought to be extinct for over 75 years. Rediscovered in 2013, the elusive survivors will now be protected within a legislated exclusion zone and hefty fines for anyone interfering. [More online.]

## It's about the food not the fork!

Is the title of a new cookbook especially written for elderly and those with dementia. The authors are Peter Morgan-Jones, Lisa Greedy, Prudence Ellis and Danielle McIntosh, and there is a guest recipe and foreword by celebrity chef, Maggie Beer. [Link.]



## Cold but thirsty...

Australian winters can't hold a candle to Canada's, but they can still get chilly – just not cool enough to stop 38% of the population from continuing to drink their beer, according to Roy Morgan Research data reported by Australian Food News. (Perhaps it's a habit more than a thirst?) [More online.]

## More than elections happening in Canberra..

*Australian Food News* reports that "McDonald's restaurants located in the Australian Capital Territory are now trialling selling meat pies.

About twenty ACT-located McDonald's stores will sell both lean beef and curry beef pies for a six-month period running now until January 2017.

Garlo's Pies is to supply the pies after Managing Director of Garlo's, Sean Garlick came up with the idea himself." [More online]

## newszealand

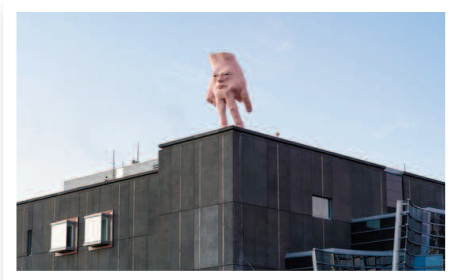
source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

## 'Ava cardo, mate!

Cheryl Santa Maria, digital reporter for the Weather network, reports that "Avocados are in high demand in New Zealand these days, due in part to wet weather and bush fires last year. That's led to a shortage that has sparked an unusual crime wave.

Since January, there have been nearly 40 large-scale thefts from avocado orchards in northern New Zealand, with thieves taking up to 350 fruit at a time.

The avocados are then showing up in road-side stalls or small-scale sushi and fruit shops in Auckland." [More online.]:



## Look up ...on top of the Christchurch Art Gallery

With Quasi, Ronnie van Hout elevates the hand of the artist to monumental status in the regenerating city. Based on scans of his own body parts, van Hout describes Quasi as 'the artist's hand made giant'. A surreal piece of visual fun, it plays with the idea of the artist's hand as the source of his or her genius. Quasi is full of pop-culture references, like the crawling, disembodied hand of old comedy-horror films, or Victor Hugo's lonely outcast Quasimodo on the roof of Notre Dame. [More online.]

## Expat food online

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](http://kiwifoodbox.com)

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## Vegemite

In April 1984, a 115-gram jar of vegemite became the first product in Australia to be electronically scanned at a checkout.

Vegemite is produced in Australia at Mondelez's Port Melbourne manufacturing facility.

More than 22 million jars are produced per year.

It is made from leftover brewers' yeast extract (waste obtained from the Carlton & United brewery) with various vegetable and spice additives.

It was developed by the chemist at Fred Walker & Co., Cyril P. Callister in Melbourne, Victoria, in 1922. following the disruption of

British Marmite imports after World War I Hilda and Laurel Armstrong (aged 18 and 20 at the time) of Albert Park, Victoria, won the £50 prize for naming the new product.

In 1935 the product was renamed as "Parwill" to make use of the advertising slogan "Marmite but Parwill".

Vegemite is one of the richest sources of B vitamins, specifically thiamine, riboflavin, niacin and folic acid.

And who doesn't know..

*We're happy little Vegemites*

*As bright as bright can be.*

*We all enjoy our Vegemite*

*For breakfast, lunch, and tea.*

*Our mummies say we're growing stronger*

*Every single week,*

*Because we love our Vegemite*

*We all adore our Vegemite*

*It puts a rose in every cheek.*

The jingle that helped Vegemite's rise to popularity first aired on radio in 1954 and TV in '56.



In 2007 all eight original children who located and were featured in many TV specials and interviews in the Australian National media.

[From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.]



More winning entries from  
our photo contest!

### Toby Elson

Orakei Korako (The Hidden Valley), Taupo, New Zealand. Jan/Feb 2006.

Water Lily. Butterfly and Orchid Garden, Thames, New Zealand. Jan/Feb 2006.



## Shortfall in Avocado crop fuels black market crime in NZ

Thieves capitalize on booming black market for the fruit amid soaring demand with avocados selling for between NZ\$4-6 each across the country, after a poor season last year and increasing local demand.

The surging local and international demand for avocados is fuelling the crime wave. Since January there have been close to 40 large-scale thefts from avocado orchards in the north island of New Zealand, with as many as 350 fruit stolen at a time. More thefts have gone unreported.

According to NZ Avocado in 2015 an additional 96,000 households began purchasing avocados, and local growers – largely geared towards the lucrative export market – have been unable to keep up with the demand.

The recent thefts have been night raids, with the crop either “raked” from the tree and collected in blankets on the ground, or hand-picked and driven away to road-side stalls, grocery stores or small-scale sushi, fruit and sandwich shops in Auckland.

Sergeant Aaron Fraser of Waihi said there had been such thefts during his time policing but nothing like the current activity.

“These stolen avocados can carry risks,” he said. “They are unripe, some have been sprayed recently and they may still carry toxins on the skin. But with the prices so high at the moment, the potential for profit is a strong inducement.”

Jen Scoular, New Zealand Avocado CEO, said the recent thefts were concerning, but a bumper season of locally-grown avocados should flood the New Zealand market in coming weeks, reducing the incentive for thieves.

## Gibraltar gutted by Brexit, fear of trouble with Spain

Screeds have been written about the disaster of Britain voting to leave the European Union. None of it did much to enlighten an unknowing world about the massive body blow that was felt by one of the UK’s most loyal entities – the Gibraltar that for years, at great sacrifice through many wars, has guarded the entrance and exit of sea traffic to the Mediterranean.

It’s like a child senselessly tossed from the safety and succor of family to suffer the pain of menacing selfish bullies and a frightening, dangerous unknown.

Gibraltar, many times threatened, needs the EU to prosper and survive. Its population of 32,000, 24,000 of whom voted resoundingly last week to remain, occupies the tiny entity’s 6.7 square kilometres (2.625 sq miles) poking out of the extreme south of the Iberian Peninsular, where Spain envies, and often bullies it, after centuries of quarrels and wars.

For many Australians and Kiwis headed for the UK by ship in the 1940s and 50s, Gibraltar was their first step into British pound country.

## Nauru drops homosexual law

The tiny Pacific island nation of Nauru, the Commonwealth’s smallest national member with a population of about 10,000, has legalized homosexuality, replacing its century-old criminal code with a new law that also criminalizes slavery and broadens the definition of rape to apply to married and unmarried couples.

In addition, the Crimes Act 2016 decriminalizes suicide, which became an issue after refugees deported from Australia to a controversial Nauru detention center committed or attempted suicide.

Nauru announced that the Crimes Act 2016 would replace the Nauruan Criminal Code of 1899. The government’s decision to decriminalize homosexuality and suicide – in compliance with obligations under international treaties – showed “progressive leadership,” it said.

Edmund Settle, policy adviser for the UN Development Program in Bangkok, praised Nauru for setting “a positive example in the Pacific region”.

## Wellingtonians put Oz High Commission on “detention” over refugee treatment

The organization Peace Action Wellington (PAW) blockaded the Australian High Commission in Wellington last month, creating a symbolic detention centre to protest Australian policy of mandatory offshore detention for refugees and asylum seekers.

PAW delivered a large “message in a bottle,” bearing the slogan, “Don’t be silent please – freedom is our right”, a message directly from protesters on Nauru and Manus Island. Peaceful protests by detained refugees and asylum seekers have just passed their 100th day on Nauru.

## NZ Defence gets big boost

Kiwi spies and soldiers are getting a \$600-million funding boost from the 2016 budget.

Funding for the NZ Intelligence Commu-

nity comes after a review found significant investment was needed for it to stay effective. As a result, the NZIC will get \$178.7 million over four years.

On top of this, \$120.2 million will be spent on a major update of the government’s cryptographic infrastructure, which keeps it secure online.

It is a major boost for New Zealand’s spy agencies, allowing for significant staff recruitment, GCSB and NZSIS Minister Christopher Finlayson says.

## Media condemn PNG police shootings and journalist assaults

Journalists and media practitioners across the region have joined their news colleagues in Papua New Guinea in solidarity and support, calling for global pressure on PNG’s police and leaders to take “immediate steps” to curb the “abhorrent and totally unnecessary” use of firearms at a peaceful protest organized on the morning of June 8, 2016 at the national university.

In the panic and pandemonium caused by police tear gas and shooting at unarmed citizens, a female journalist was assaulted – the second incident involving PNG police in a week.

Just days before, PFF had expressed dismay over the assault of journalist Imelda Wavik and her colleagues while reporting from a police station in Port Moresby.

National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) journalist Rose Amos and colleagues were covering a student protest at the University of Papua New Guinea. The event turned into a confrontation with armed police opening fire and using tear gas. More than 30 people – most of them students – were later treated for injuries, including gunshot wounds.

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.



## Kookaburras

Last month was the northern flicker – a woodpecker that doesn't spend much time pecking wood and has no relative downunder. This month it's the kookaburra – a kingfisher that doesn't do much fishing and has no relative in North America.

Famous the world over for their infectious "laugh", kookaburras are native to just Australia and New Guinea. The rufous-bellied and the spangled are found in New Guinea while the blue-winged and the laughing are in Australia – the blue-winged keeps to northern Australia and southern New Guinea. The laughing has been introduced to Tasmania, south-west Australia and New Zealand.

The name comes from the Wiradhuri word "gugubarra".

If you are barbequing, watch the meat! These birds are carnivorous. They eat mice, snakes, grubs, other birds' young and the occasional fish and BBQ snag. The offspring from the previous year assist their parents with feeding the new brood. They nest in natural tree hollows. Go here for a good laugh: [\[link\]](#).

Banjo Paterson (Andrew Barton) penned this explanation for the laugh:

## Why The Jackass Laughs

The Boastful Crow and the Laughing Jack  
Were telling tales of the outer back:  
"I've just been travelling far and wide,  
At the back of Bourke and the Queensland side;  
There isn't a bird in the bush can go  
As far as me," said the old black crow.

"There isn't a bird in the bush can fly  
A course as straight or a course as high.  
Higher than human eyesight goes  
There's sometimes clouds, but there's always crows,  
Drifting along for a scent of blood  
Or a smell of smoke or a sign of flood.  
For never a bird or a beast has been  
With a sight as strong or a scent as keen.  
At fires and floods I'm the first about,  
For then the lizards and mice run out:  
And I make my swoop, and that's all they know,  
I'm a whale on mice," said the Boastful Crow.

The Bee-birds over the homestead flew  
And told each other the long day through  
"The cold has come, we must take the track."  
"Now, I'll make you a bet," said the Laughing Jack,  
"Of a hundred mice, that you dare not go  
With the little Bee-birds, by Boastful Crow."

Said the Boastful Crow, "I could take my ease  
And fly with little green birds like these.  
If they went flat out and they did their best  
I could have a smoke and could take a rest."  
And he asked of the Bee-birds circling round:  
"Now, where do you spike-tails think you're bound?"  
"We leave tonight, and our present plan  
is to go straight on till we reach Japan.  
"Every year, on the self-same day,  
We call our children and start away,  
Twittering, travelling day and night,  
Over the ocean we take our flight;  
And we rest a day on some lonely isles  
Or we beg a ride for a hundred miles  
On a steamer's deck, \* and away we go:  
We hope you'll come with us, Mister Crow."

But the old black crow was extremely sad.  
Said he: "I reckon you're raving mad  
To talk of travelling night and day,  
And how in the world do you find your way?"  
And the Bee-birds answered him, "If you please,  
That's one of our own great mysteries".

Now these things chanced in the long ago  
And explain the fact, which no doubt you know,  
That every jackass high and low  
Will always laugh when he sees a crow.



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## **Pakistani woman set afire and dies for refusing proposal**

Maria Sadaqat, a young schoolteacher, was attacked in her home by a group of men and died in hospital in Islamabad last month. Her family say she had turned down a marriage proposal from the son of the owner of a school she had taught at.

Campaigners say attacks on women who refuse marriage proposals are common in Pakistan. Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif launched an immediate investigation, which was given two days two days to report.

Maria's father has said the school owner was one of the men who attacked his daughter. Police told the BBC that the men beat her and doused her in petrol before setting her alight near the hill resort of Murree, not far from the capital. She suffered 85% burns.