

The Southern Yarn

August 2016



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

AUGUST

*DUCW 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.
See page 2 for details.

RSVP

Let us know you are coming, RSVP to (Liz)
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or look for the new **RSVP page** under EVENTS
on our website.

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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 condolences to Peter Debenham and family on the passing of his mother.



The 9th hole pond at Players Golf Course in Winnipeg. Join us for our annual golf tournament.

Golf Day coming

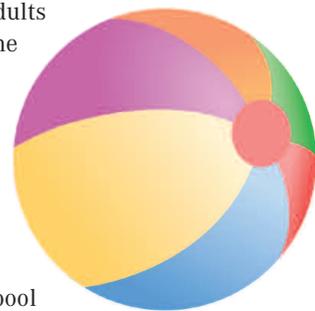
We are running the Annual DUCW Golf Tournament on **August 20th**, at The Players Course, 2695 Inkster Boulevard, (Park Royal Way, just west of Route 90). There is a choice of playing either 9 or 18 holes, with first tee offs at 10:45am for those playing 18 holes, and those playing 9 holes merge with the 18 hole players starting at a 1:00pm tee off time. We have a mix of player strengths, so don't worry if your handicap is -2 or +30. We will meet after the game at the outdoor patio at the restaurant for a burger and drink, and the awards presentations. Call Peter at 204 237-1805 to book your tee time.



July Pool Party

Numbers were down a bit on previous years, but those present enjoyed a perfect afternoon around the pool at Jason and Lynley's. Kids and adults enjoyed some fun in the water or just snacking and chatting - and that is how, after all these years, two long-time members discovered a common connection:

At the recent pool party held at Lynley and Jason's, Judy Powell mentioned that the company she worked with in Adelaide, 1970-1973, was ANI Austral Steel [the Head Office created when Austral Steel Holdings was taken over by Australian National Industries (ANI)]. Part of that process, for a period of time, required Judy to submit financial reports to her boss who then reported to John Debenham of ANI in Sydney. Well, that John Debenham happened to be the father of our Treasurer, Peter Debenham.



online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



I am writing this just before we head off to visit the Mexican pavilion at this year's Folklorama [more online] festival. I doubt there is anything similar that can rival Winnipeg's annual 2 week multicultural event - world-class food and entertainment from over 45 countries right at our doorstep! For most of those host cultural groups it is an occasion to re-live and share the rich traditions they left behind. Without the umph to do another one ourselves, (we did 6 between '93 and '04) this humble little publication is one small way we share a bit of our culture. While Folklorama may be unique, many major cities do celebrate their cultural diversity in other ways. Here are just a few examples from Australia: Canberra has the National Multicultural Festival - a free community festival held over 3 days annually each February; Adelaide puts on their Multicultural Festival in Rundle Mall in November with 60 groups participating in 2015; and Brisbane's version takes over Roma Street Parklands where some 170 cultures contribute to the mix of performances and food. And while in Brisbane, if you're a homesick Kiwi, you can get a taste of home at the restaurants featured online [link].

Speaking of Kiwis They are the Birds I View this month (p.6).

And this month we get to know (again) the Debenhams (p.4) thanks to Gordon Keatch's interview back in 2007.

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

Enjoy!

Kiwi food by subscription box

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

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



We have already had entries in for the DUCW Golf Tournament on Saturday 20th August at the Players Course. Unfortunately we were rained out last year, and I am looking forward to playing the course again. It is a good mix of easier and some harder holes, and our regular players find it works well

for us. And if your golf game doesn't work too well on the course, the course has a great undercover outdoor attachment to the restaurant to relax with a beverage and a burger afterwards. Prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin will be awarded, along with recognition of our champion golfers. So come join us for a great day of golf on the 20th, and even greater company,

Regards,
Peter

(Seems like) 100 years ago: Retro Night at DUCW

At the last Directors' meeting, the Board discussed the issue of organizing social events and the burden it placed on the same people each time. The Board then discussed how the original meetings were held every 2 weeks since shortly after the war until the 1980's. Meetings alternated at various members' homes and it was the host's responsibility to provide all the fixings. Those fixings consisted of: Beer and potato chips. That was it. Members threw a loonie into a hat as they pulled a beer out of the case.

It was recalled that members had resisted the introduction of women into the Club as, it was feared, women would want dip and serviettes to go with the potato chips. Maybe even a salad. It seems that those fears were warranted as the DUCW moved into the modern era and allowed female membership.

The board has now decided to take a trip down nostalgic lane and have an evening similar to the old days, albeit with women in attendance.

We are holding a "Retro Night" with beer and potato chips and that's it! It will be at Joanne and Peter Debenham's at **584 Wallace Ave, September 16th at 7pm**. Please bring nothing! Peter is looking after all the fixings. You'll just need some toonies - sorry, some things have to change.

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Why is the black swan?

Tim Low writes for the Australian Geographical and tells us that, until Dutch navigator Willem de Vlamingh found black swans in Western Australia in 1697, Europeans thought all swans had to be white. So now WA's beloved and iconic bird is a metaphor for not jumping to false conclusions. [Read more online]



Cactus

Unlike the disaster of the cane toad in Australia, a moth from Argentina proved to be an early biocontrol success story. Captain Arthur Phillip needed red dye for his soldiers' uniforms, so he seeded a small industry: cactus plants were planted in our fledgling colony so that the cochineal beetles that lived on them could be harvested and macerated to make the blood-red dye.

Trouble was that, even after alternative sources were found, the cactus spread. [Read more online].



Last of the Utes

and I'm not referring to the North American tribe. Ford Australia is making its last model of the iconic utility. It won't be for sale though - they plan to keep it in their history collection. You can bid on the second last one, however, with the proceeds going to charity. [Read more online].

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Kool Kebab Shopkeeper...

A would-be robber had to leave empty-handed after the cool response from Said Ahmed, owner of Egyptian Kebab House. Instead of paying any attention to the intruder, Mr Ahmed just continued serving his customer, then walked to the back of his shop and phoned the police. Read more and watch his calm response online.

A novel use for the world's steepest street...

15,000 people crammed into Dunedin's Baldwin Street for the 15th annual Jaffa Race.

The Cadbury's-sponsored event features 75,000 jaffas competing against each other to be the first to the bottom of the hill. Make-a-Wish, Surf Lifesaving New Zealand and Parents Centre New Zealand will share the



- 75,000 Jaffas are let loose down Baldwin St
- In its 15th year
- 1 million for 13 charities so far
- 1st race - red Jaffas
- 2nd race yellow
- 3rd race secret
- 25,000 Jaffas in each race

expected \$75,000 proceeds from the sale of numbered tickets. [Read more online]

Best pie in NZ

The owner of Patrick's Pie Group Gold Star Bakery in Tauranga was last night named supreme winner in the long running Bakels NZ pie competition. His bacon and egg pie was judged the best of more than 5000 entries from all corners of the country. [Read more online]



Touch Rugby in Winnipeg

Touch rugby is a minimal contact sport for all skills levels, abilities, and degrees of fitness. Training and games are held from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm at River Heights School, 1350 Grosvenor Ave. 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. For more information, visit their Facebook page [link].

Our group goal is to raise funds to send our national team down to Australia for the 2019 world Cup. We will be seeking volunteers to help with the program - to referee games, help during trainings, participate in the development of the program, etc.

Touch, also known as Touch Football or Touch Rugby around the world, is a thrilling sport that allows people of all walks of life to achieve their goals; whether that is the thrill of challenging oneself to compete at their best, the thrill of a fast, skilful and exhilarating sport, the thrill of meeting new people or the thrill of being a part of something that can span a lifetime.

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Peter Debenham celebrated his 65th birthday recently, so let's revisit GK's write-up about this affable bloke (but remember, this is from May 2007)...

The Debenhams

Anyone who has ever strolled along London's Oxford Street will probably have stepped into Debenham's Department Store to check out their haberdashery. Although our Peter's ancestors came from England, there is no connection to the famed department store. They did, however, emigrate to Australia and wound up in Tasmania, but not at Port Arthur!

Peter Debenham was born in Georgetown, on the Tamar River in northern Tasmania, where his father, John, was an engineer at an aluminium smelter. Within five years they moved to Mary Kathleen, Queensland, a new town near Mt. Isa where his father set up a uranium plant, supervising the building of the mine, school, hospital and fire station. Prime Minister Robert Menzies once stayed with them - election year?

The family grew to five sons and one daughter. Eventually they relocated to Strathfield (Sydney) where Peter attended the University of NSW and earned a B.Comm. in Marketing. He then articulated with a chartered accounting firm and, in 1978, graduated with a C.A. designation. Next year, he decided to see the world and found employment with the same C.A. firm in their Montreal office. He managed to learn enough French to get by but, after about six months, he had immigration problems that were resolved by moving to Calgary. Only in Canada, eh!

There he met Janet Stacey from Winnipeg who was working on her CGA degree and they were married in December 1980. The next year saw them move to Winnipeg. At one point there were thoughts of going to Oz, but they decided against it, in part because Peter had become hooked on our invigorating climate.

Peter became involved with the Gateway Community Club when the kids came along and is still active in the Centre where he has been treasurer for many years.



Peter also has a political bent. For several provincial elections, he has been the official agent for River East MLA Bonnie Mitchelson.

In 1988, Peter and Janet bought a larger property on Bonner Avenue in North Kildonan, right next to Bunn's Creek, which has been known to flood quite often. One year they were evacuated for some time. They had an outdoor pool, which made for many summer parties for DUCW members

Also in 1988, Peter joined Silpit Industries/Brown and Rutherford, where he was comptroller. Janet and Peter separated and, in 2001, he met Joanne Bissonnette. They were married in January 2003.

Joanne has been a school bus driver in the River East Division for more than 20 years. She has a son, Jason, and a daughter,

Jaimee. Peter's son Christopher lives in Edmonton and does alright in the oil patch business. His daughter Carolyn lives in Vancouver doing fashion design. Tim went back to Queensland working at a pub owned by Peter's brother. Tim and some friends played in a band at the last DUCW pavilion (2004).

All have been active club members, especially at Folklorama. Joanne was food coordinator in 2004 and Peter has been key to our involvement from day one. He has worked every night - except one - at all pavilions. He is a past president of the club and currently is its treasurer.

Peter's insight and financial acumen has resulted in the solid standing our club enjoys. Thanks, a lot, mate.

By Gordon Keatch.

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Tasman Glacier shrinking

Tasman glacier—a tourist showpiece and storehouse for water resources in New Zealand’s Southern Alps—is shrinking fast because of global warming. Scientists expect the glacier to continue to dwindle, and eventually to disappear, perhaps this century.

About 18 miles (29 kilometers) long and up to 2,000 feet (600 meters) thick, Tasman glacier in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park is NZ’s largest and longest glacier. The Tasman is melting so rapidly—at an average rate of 590 feet (180 meters) per year since the 1990s—that a lake formed at the end of the glacier in the late twentieth century. By 2008 the lake was more than four miles (seven kilometers) long, 1.2 miles (two kilometers) wide, and 800 feet (245 meters) deep.

Ice on land accounts for 75% of the world’s freshwater, and covers 10% of Earth’s surface. All but 3-4% of this ice is tied up in the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica. Of the remainder, 50 percent is in North America, 44% in Eurasia, 5 percent in South America, and 1 percent in New Zealand.

By storing water as ice, Earth’s glaciers are a small but significant water resource. They provide a source of water during droughts and in the summer, after seasonal snows have melted.

Glaciers around the world have been retreating over the past century. In New Zealand and Australia, the volume of glacial ice decreased by nearly one-half over the past century, and at least one-quarter of glacier mass has been lost since 1950.

Other potential impacts of glacial melting include greater risk of avalanches and flooding, reduced hydropower capacity during dry seasons, and a decline in the amount of water available for irrigation. Source: Union of Concerned Scientists

Australia’s refugee ‘Pacific Solution’ unravels

It was not a good month for the Australian Government. First, the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court declared that the Manus Island refugee detention centre was unconstitutional and contrary to all notions of human rights. A couple of days later the PNG prime minister stated that the facility should close as soon as possible. The Australian Government is also to be sued for compensation that could amount to more than a million dollars for their illegal detention of people on Manus.

And now it has been revealed that Ferrovial, the Spanish company that owns more than 50% of the shares of Broadspectrum (formerly Transfield) and which hopes to buy it outright, has announced it intends to withdraw from the detention centre business. If this materializes this would leave the Australian Government without a prime company to manage its offshore detention centres (although it may decide to contract the Broadspectrum services out to Serco or G4S). This includes the detention centre at Nauru, which is in its second month of an ongoing protest by refugees. All this, after a week when one of the Iranian refugees at Nauru set fire to himself rather than be forced back to Iran, where he feared death (He subsequently died from his injuries after authorities spent more than 24 hours on treatment).

Now the pressure is on for Canberra to give the boot to this illegal, immoral, inhuman and neo-colonialist ‘Pacific Solution’ that successive Australian governments have practiced in complete disregard of world condemnation, contravention of UN protocols – many after being kidnapped by the Australian navy on the high seas – should be released. This could be organized via a coordinated program supervised by Amnesty International. New Zealand has already offered to take an initial 150 refugees; more countries may well make similar offers.

Meanwhile in Nauru another young man has attempted self immolation at the detention centre. The 20 year old known as Milad doused himself with petrol, but was arrested before he could follow through with the act; he is known to have mental health issues, as do many of the refugees on the 22km square island, which is being used by Australia as a human dumping ground as part of its refugee policies – this is at least the sixth suicide attempt in the space of a week. – Sources: Wordpress Undercover info

TV of tortured boys, Australian PM calls Commission

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has called a royal commission after a TV investigation showed prison guards assaulting boys in juvenile detention.

Television’s Four Corners program showed footage of teenage offenders stripped naked, assaulted and tear-gassed. One of the boys was hooded and cuffed to a mechanical restraint chair wearing a “spit hood”.

The Northern Territory’s Attorney General John Elferink has been stripped of his corrections portfolio. The report raised questions about an institutionalized culture of abuse at corrections centres in the Northern Territory, an administrative district that covers a large part of Australia’s north.

Turnbull said the treatment of the young men by the Northern Territory corrections system needed a thorough inquiry.

“Like all Australians, I have been deeply shocked, shocked and appalled, by the images of mistreatment at the Don Dale Centre,” Mr Turnbull said.

The Northern Territory corrections system has reportedly been plagued by accusations of mistreatment of offenders and a run of escapes from custody.

The Northern Territory’s chief minister, Adam Giles, has now taken on responsibility for corrections facilities. He said the footage left him “shocked and disgusted” and reiterated the call for a royal commission, a high-level independent inquiry.

The president of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Gillian Triggs, praised the decision to investigate mistreatment at the juvenile detention centres.

“I think for the prime minister to respond so quickly with the idea of a royal commission, and possibly an interim report, is exactly what we need,” Prof Triggs said. – Source: ABC. BBC

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.



Kiwis

This is not a bird I have viewed in the wild. Nor have I seen its distant relative, the moa (because the moa is extinct!). I have seen plenty of emus; and they are a closer relative of New Zealand's iconic emblem. They are all ratites – birds that can't fly. The kiwi's Latin species name is Apteryx – which means wingless. There are 5 known species – each associated with different regions of New Zealand – and a number of sub-species.

It is well known that kiwis lay a larger egg/body weight than any other bird. For example, although they are about the size as a domestic chicken, a kiwi's egg is about 6 times larger than the chicken's. They can be heard calling just before dawn or just after dusk – to their (lifelong) mate or to announce their territory.

When I think of the kiwi, I can't help thinking also of the platypus – both are unique – both lay eggs; both find grubs using their sensitive beak/bill; and of course both are flightless and therefore more endangered. These days the kiwis enjoy some security in protected reserves and national parks. However they are still increasingly threatened by introduced feral predators. One website (<https://www.kiwisforkiwi.org/about-kiwi/kiwi-facts-characteristics/>) suggests that an average of 27 kiwis are killed every week by predators!

As for here in Canada, there is of course no relative of the kiwi – only the bittern comes to mind as extremely remotely similar (but that's a subject for another day).

Read a Maori story online about "How the Kiwi lost its Wings" [link].

Ode to the Kiwi Bird

Written and composed for Mz. Myrn's challenge phrase: 'Raced the wind and touched the sky'

By Morning Song.

Of times, I feel much like you, kiwi bird,
Grounded, yes, but still, yet yearning to fly
An earthbound bird, whose voice is seldom heard
Flinging his heart and his soul to the sky

I saw you once, with all of your brothers
Where are you? Hear me, are you there? I cry
If you are now gone, like all the others
What hope, then, I ask, for one such as I?

I, too, face extinction, dear flightless bird
Although not quite as fast as you, it seems
Walking this tightrope into the absurd
Yet holding my hopes, and all of my dreams

Perhaps we both, dear bird, as night draws nigh,
Will then have raced the wind, and touched the sky



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