

The Southern Yarn

September 2016



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

SEPTEMBER

Retro Club Night
Friday 16th September, 7 pm
at Peter and Joanne Debenham's
584 Wallace Ave.

A nostalgic return to how Club nights used to be. 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. There will be beer and potato chips and that's it! Please bring nothing! Peter is looking after all the fixings. You'll just need some toonies

OCTOBER

Not-so-Formal Dinner
Saturday 29th October,
5 pm at the Bar for dinner at 6 pm
Norwood Hotel, 112 Marion St

A delicious menu is set. Just tell us you're coming, and select one of three mains. All the details are on page 2.

NOVEMBER

Annual General Meeting
Friday 25th November, 7pm.
Scandinavian Cultural Centre,
764 Erin St.

Consider taking a turn on the executive or just turn up and lend your support. Make some suggestions for Club Events or catch up with mates. The bar will be open, snacks supplied.

DECEMBER

Family Christmas Party
Date in December TBA
Scandinavian Cultural Centre,
764 Erin St.

Santa will bring the gifts – you bring the food. This is a FAMILY POTLUCK DINNER. RSVP with the names and ages of the children.

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.



Golfers: (L-R) Brendan Bernhard, Bob Cunningham, Keri-Anne Bernhard and Tracey Bernhard.

Golf Day

The weather cooperated for our golf tournament held at Players course on the 20th August. We had a good turnout, a good time, and the true champions stood out from the rest of us. We followed the game with refreshments on the patio overlooking the pond, and the following people were announced as winners on the day.



The Debenhams, Tim, Peter and Chris.

Winner Flight "A", and overall CHAMPION:

..... **Peter Debenham**

2nd, Flight "A" **Bob Cunningham**

Winner Flight "B" **Tim Debenham**

2nd, Flight "B" **Andrew Cobb**

Longest Drive **Peter Debenham**

Closest to the pin **Peter Munn**

Most Honest Golfer **Keri-Anne Bernhard**

AFL Grand Final

Al Sharms has invited members of the DUCW to witness the biggest event on Australia's sporting calendar – the AFL Grand Final – on the giant screen at Boston Pizza on Henderson Highway on **Friday September 30** from 8:30 pm until around 1:00 am. Last year was a fantastic night, with members of the DUCW and a few locals watching the pre-game entertainment and the main event. Everyone is invited – all are welcome. For more information, visit their Facebook event page.



You never know who'll you meet at the AFL Grand Final. Join us on Friday at the end of this month!

online



find us on facebook or the web
www.downunderclub.mb.ca
email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,

No complaints about the summer that was. We enjoyed a few days at Wasagamung, on Clear Lake in Riding Mountain National Park, last month. On the wildlife side, that meant getting close to bison in their reserve near Audy Lake, sightings of a black bear mom and her cubs, deer, and a belted kingfisher in action. Also spotted some fellow DUCW members there!

The Olympic Games in Rio also provided some exciting and historic moments - I hope to delve into them a little more in next month's Yarn, highlighting an athlete as well as the overall performance from Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

So far the fall is looking pretty good, too. Birds are on the move - the familiar honk of overhead geese as they begin returning south; waxwings, tipsy on mountain ash berries and crashing into windows, and color changes starting to spread across the foliage.

Jenny Gates has submitted details of Gordon Keatch's recent award: the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation (p. 4) - Congratulations Gordon.

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

Enjoy!

Paralympics Underway

More than 4,300 of the world's toughest and most competitive disabled athletes are now competing in the Rio Paralympics. Australia and New Zealand are already off to a great start with 6 medals between them. For all the photos and stories, be sure to check out the ABC website and the New Zealand Herald site.



Aussie
paralympian
Lakeisha
Patterson.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Overall it's been a good summer, plenty of sunshine, and there has always been a beer cart on the golf course. Not much travelling for us, though we travelled to Minnesota, just north of Duluth on Lake Superior, for a good visit with a great friend. While there, I played a game of golf with a long-time golf partner, on a local course with great views of Lake Superior. You get an understanding of the size of the lake when you can see the size of the Lake Freighters that are lining up to get into the docks at

Duluth. For comparison, Superior is 3 1/2 times the surface area of Lake Winnipeg, but with its greater depth, averaging 483 feet, it holds 42 times the volume of Lake Winnipeg. With all that water to toss around, when the gales of November came early, the Edmund Fitzgerald never stood a chance. While the Edmund Fitzgerald is the most recognized wreck thanks to the great Gordon Lightfoot, there are at least 350 other major vessels on the bottom of Superior, and Duluth is a major stopping point for Winnipeggers going wreck diving.

Hopefully we will see a lot of members at the "Not so Formal dinner" at the Norwood Hotel on October 29th, so please choose your main meal, RSVP to 204-487-0067 or social@downunderclub.mb.ca and mark it on your calendar.

Regards, Peter

The Annual DUCW Not-so-Formal Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2016

Tache Room of the Norwood Hotel, 112 Marion Street, Winnipeg

APPETIZERS

Cream of potato & leek soup
Caesar salad

MAIN MEAL

Please choose one of the following options

Tenderloin steak & peppercorn sauce;
Chicken and prawns; or
Half rack of lamb.

Main meals will be served with

Baby roasted potatoes, Yellow & green
beans amandine, Rolls & butter
Coffee, tea & complimentary glass of wine.
Chocolate and strawberry cheesecake.

\$50 per person, incl. tip & taxes,
cash or cheque payable to DUCW
RSVP to 204-487-0067

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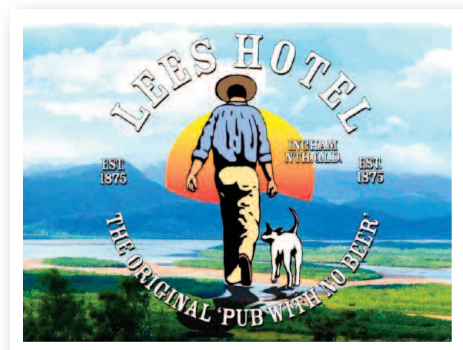
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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience



Australia's most successful single ...

... talking about the song: "A Pub with no Beer" – first penned in 1943 by a thirsty Irish cane farmer after riding 20 miles for a pint only to find that a convoy of Yanks had drunk every last drop the night before.

That pub, Lee's Hotel in Ingham, Qld, still earns royalties from the hit made famous by Slim Dusty in '57. [More online.]

Time to update coordinates ...

If driverless cars are to become a reality and stay in the correct lane, then Australia's longitude and latitude need to be corrected. GPS relies on these being accurate and therefore it is also important for satellite (precision) agriculture. The last time was in 1994 and the continent has been moving north 7 cm per year since then. [More online]



New fiver

The five dollar note is also being revamped, after 25 years. The main reason is to stay ahead of counterfeiters. It will also include a couple of raised dots for the sake of the visually impaired. [More online].



Mush!

The Otago Sled Dog Racing Association recently ran an 80 km dryland sled-dog race – believed to be the longest of its kind in the world – along a track through the Naseby Forest. Alaskan Malamute and Siberian Husky breeds were joined by Pointer crosses, Rottweiler crosses, Staffie crosses and a little Kelpie-Collie cross. [More online]



Blast-off coming

A New Zealand company, Rocket Lab, is gearing up to launch its Electron rocket. It is developing a launch site at Mahia, south of Gisborne. Environmental risk assessments have been commissioned. Ultimately the company expects a launch every week. [More online].



Kiwi plastic surgery pioneer

When medical men Henry Pickerill and Harold Gillies signed up for World War I, they

hoped to make a difference by treating the wounded. But nothing could prepare them for the horrific injuries suffered by soldiers who had been blown up or shot on the Western Front. Their pioneering work in helping some of those disfigured men return to a normal life was one of the positive outcomes from one of history's most tragic and bloody periods. [More online]

Foodbox

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

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!

Just 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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Congratulations to our mate, Gordon

On Sunday August 7 at the Delta Winnipeg downtown, Gordon Keatch was presented with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

The Commendation is awarded annually to Veterans who have contributed in an exemplary manner to the care and well-being of Veterans, and/or to the remembrance of the contributions, sacrifices and achievements of Veterans.

Gordon to a T, don't you think?!

The award was made by The Honourable Kent Hehr who addressed the group of 12 recipients before the presentation ceremony got underway. Then each recipient was called up to receive their framed plaque and pins as their story was read to the audience. Following the formal part of the morning, recipients and their family and friends were treated to a delicious breakfast buffet.

Gordon's write up was as follows:

Mr. Keatch is a Veteran of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). He is a key figure in the Down Under Club of Winnipeg's (DUCW) partnership with the General Monash Branch of The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL). Since 1949, Mr. Keatch has been a Parade Commander and chief organizer of the annual ANZAC Commemoration Service – a national day of remembrance that honours members of the Australian and



Group photo, with Gordon seated front row, right. Souvenirs from the Commendation event.
Photos: Jenny Gates.

New Zealand Army Corps who served and died at Gallipoli during the First World War, as well as in all military operations since. In 1999, he was involved in the unveiling of the "Garden of Memories" memorial at Air Force Heritage Park, dedicated to all those who trained, fought and died under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP). Mr. Keatch later appeared in a documentary of the event, and a second video documenting the history and operations of the BCATP, titled "In A Common Cause." His Manitoba



story is in the book "Canada's War Grooms and the Girls Who Stole Their Hearts" by Judy Kozar. Mr. Keatch is a Life Member of the Wartime Pilots and Observers Association, the longest serving Veterans' organization in Canada, which held its final parade on June 6, 2008. He has long supported the General Monash Branch, and is

regularly involved in various activities at 17 Wing Winnipeg.

Definitely worthy of the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation, if you ask me.

– Jenny Gates

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The Annual DUCW
Not-so-Formal Dinner

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2016

Tache Room of the Norwood Hotel,
112 Marion Street, Winnipeg

RSVP to 204-487-0067 or
social@downunderclub.mb.ca

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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.

Tiny Gibraltar gutted by Brexit

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 Peninsula, 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 dumps homophobic 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 Force Intelligence, gets \$600M boost from budget

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

Funding for the NZ Intelligence Community 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.

PNG police assaults condemned

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.

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.



birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

The Australian Bustard

Ardeotis australis

These birds of the open plains get up to over 14 kg, and yet they fly! (A wedge-tail eagle is less than half that weight.) Their cousins in Africa are even larger and therefore can claim to be the world's heaviest flying birds. India, Asia, Africa and parts of Europe also have species in this family.

Their diet depends on the season and where they are, and so it can be quite varied – grass seeds, small reptiles, frogs and rodents, grubs, grasshoppers and beetles. After bushfires, bustards may gather to feed on the casualties.

Bustards have officially been protected since 1935, although to the Indigenous Australians they are known as bush turkeys and are still a popular food source in Central and Northern Australia. They are also quite prominent in Dreaming stories.

The males have a gular (throat) pouch which helps them make the booming mating call that is so irresistible to the females. But they then take no part in raising the resulting chicks. If alarmed or threatened they produce a barking sound.



In 1770 Captain James Cook named "Bustard Bay" near Gladstone, Queensland. Perhaps he had one for dinner there?

THE BIRDS OF BLACK OR GREY

The black scrub turkey's now protected, like the bustard, grey turkey from the plain. So we the northern and inland seniors, won't taste the food from early days again.

Those were hard years, no fancy tucker, long hours worked, and money always short, Bird and beast hunted about the country, game taken for the table never shot for sport.

Young scrub turkey braised with trimmings, along with potatoes and onions filled the pot. Whilst the inland fare young plain turkey, a bushman cooked in camp ovens like as not.

No fancy table settings or crisp white linen, strong tea, bread or damper, just basic things. But bush fare slow cooked to perfection, in those hard years seemed the food of kings.

Not a call in those years for banned species, for who would take beyond their need. The bushmen hunted wisely within reason, with stocks and space for game to breed.

And well I still recall the times and hardship, the simple way of life, the sorrows and joy. The bush land, the skills and thrill of hunting, those grand years, ones I spent being a boy.

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