

The Southern Yarn

October 2016



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

OCTOBER

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

See opposite on this page for the delicious menu – make your choice and then let us know (if you haven't already).

NOVEMBER

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

We look forward to seeing all of you at our Annual General Meeting. Consider taking a turn on the executive – all positions are up for grabs – or just turn up and lend your support to those who keep the cogs turning. It is a good forum for raising suggestions for Club Events or to catch up with mates. The Bar will be open and snacks will be supplied.

DECEMBER

Family Christmas Party
Saturday 5th December
Scandinavian Cultural Centre,
764 Erin St.

Santa will bring the gifts – you bring the food. This is a FAMILY POTLUCK DINNER. Send in the names and ages of children who will be present by contacting Liz Hydesmith at 204-487-0067 or social@downunderclub.mb.ca .

JANUARY 2017

Australia Day and Waitangi Day
6pm Saturday 28th, 2017
Scandinavian Cultural Centre,
764 Erin St.

Potluck and Bake-off – details to come...

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.



A western road trip provided ample options for great photos. See story page 4. Photos by Jenny Gates.

Annual dinner

Our annual dinner is coming up on Saturday October 29 at the Norwood Hotel (112 Marion St). We are meeting at the bar at 5:00 pm, and dinner gets underway at 6:00 pm.

This event is always a wonderful opportunity to get together, catch up, and enjoy a delicious menu. All the details are here.

Not only do we need you to RSVP as soon as possible, we also need you to let us know which main dish you would like to order so the chefs at the Norwood can be ready for us.

The choice is between:

- Tenderloin steak and peppercorn sauce
- Chicken and prawns
- Half rack of lamb

The rest of the menu looks great, and the cost is a mere \$50 per person, including tips and taxes.

Please email Liz at liz@hydesmith.com or call her at 204-487-0067.

Help us make this another wonderful event for the DUCW. We look forward to seeing you all there.

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

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



A friend visiting from Australia recently alerted us to the unmistakable smell of maple syrup on her crisp new Canadian bills. I immediately put my nose to older plastic bills in my wallet and, sure enough, they had it too. One would therefore assume that the Bank of Canada did that on purpose. Perhaps they did, however they are denying it. [Read more online]

Our visitor also related how the border guy at Vancouver asked "Why Winnipeg????!!!" But that's OK - we don't want our best kept secret to end up like Vancouver or Toronto, do we? Anyway, it was good to spend a few days out and about, showing off some of our city and province's many neat features. Fall colors added to the experience (picture below).

Thanks this month to Jenny and Leon for sharing their summer road trip adventure with us (p. 4).

That is one of the purposes of this newsletter, so hopefully more of you will share bits of your news - since not everyone is on Facebook.

We'll share our recent rail tour to Melville, SK, in a future issue - including the fact that 'Gordon and Ann Keats' are remembered with a park in their honor.

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

Enjoy!



president's ramblings

Peter Munn



"Sons of the 'Scray" was a song I sang a bazillion years ago, growing up in the Melbourne suburb of Footscray. It was the start of the club song for Footscray Football Club, the Bulldogs, one of twelve teams playing Aussie Rules football in the Victorian Football League. I had a Junior membership for a lot of years, and walked to the Western Oval for games, as it was only a half mile from my home on Summerhill Road. In 1954 they won the Grand Final game for their first Premiership Flag. But the pickings in the following years were slim - the

club ran into financial troubles and were being forced by the league to consolidate with another financially troubled team.

They struggled through, changed their name to The Western Bulldogs to become more inclusive to the surrounding suburbs, but 2 years ago, to make things worse, their captain, and their coach, left them. But that opened the door for a good coach to join them, and after 62 years of futility, on October 1, 2016, they won their second Premiership. We were watching the game at Boston Pizza on Henderson, along with a bunch of noisy Aussies, and for me, what a great feeling. Go Dogs!

Hope to see you at the Not-so-Formal Dinner. A good time is guaranteed.

Regards, Peter

100 years ago The war still showed no signs of ending in late 1916. By this time, the AIF was the only force made up entirely of volunteers. The number of men volunteering to enlist decreased as they learned more about battlefield conditions and the high rates of Australian casualties in France. By June 1916, voluntary enlistment in the AIF was less than half of the 16 500 men per month who were needed to maintain Australia's fighting capacity. Following a visit to Britain and France, the Australian Prime Minister, William ('Billy') Hughes, believed CONSCRIPTION was the solution. [source online]



Conscription referendum - 28th October 1916

The first referendum on compulsory military enlistment failed. The issue bitterly divided communities and created a rift in the Labor Party. On 13 November the Party expelled Prime Minister WM Hughes over his support for conscription. [source online]

New Zealand Marvel!

Add-on flights are available from all major cities.

WINNIPEG TO AUCKLAND C\$1586
depart 15 Oct - 13 Dec, 2016 or 26 Jan - 31 May, 2017

WINNIPEG TO SYDNEY C\$1668
depart 15 Oct - 13 Dec, 2016 or 26 Jan - 31 May, 2017

Ask us about these ADD ONs:

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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience



The Wine Men of Gotham

I tried their 2014 Shiraz for the first time last week - not bad! The label asks: *Who are The Wine Men of Gotham? Are they odd little gentlemen from the village of Gotham in England? Are they strange fellows from New York or are they crazy Australian Winemakers?*

[more online]

Speaking of wine ...

Wine Australia reports Australian wine exports have reached record highs. Bottled exports grew by 15% to \$1.7 billion and the average value of bottled exports increased by 9% to \$5.35 per litre, the highest since October 2003. The USA is still the biggest market, but demand also increased in China, South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan [more online].



You no sooner turn around and there you are!

Tech company Hyperloop One has invested in the development of the Hyperloop system

to the tune of \$80 million, and has flagged the Australian east coast route as a testing ground. As an alternative to flying, it could get you from Sydney to Melbourne in an hour. The futuristic Hyperloop is envisioned as a supersonic tubular capsule, capable of speeds of more than 1000km per hour along a magnetic track. However, the proposal has its detractors. [More online]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Birdseye view

Rotorua Canopy Tours has won the tourism industry's top prize, the Air New Zealand Supreme Tourism Award. The four-year-old business provides three-hour eco tourism adventures high in the canopy of ancient forests using zip-lines and swing-bridges along a 1.2 km tour route. The company also has a forest restoration program, removing rats, possums and stoats. The judges said the business on the outskirts of Rotorua was an excellent combination of people, culture, environment and a fantastic activity for all ages to enjoy. [More online].



Young Nick sights land

6th October 1769: Ship's boy Nicholas Young received a gallon of rum and had Young

Nicks Head named in his honour for being the first aboard the Endeavour to spot land. Captain James Cook noted in his journal that 'at 2 p.m. saw land from the mast head bearing W by N, which we stood directly for, and could but just see it of the deck at sun set.' When leaving Poverty Bay on 11 October 1769, Cook wrote that the 'SW Point of Poverty Bay ... I have named Young Nicks head after the boy who first saw this land.' The land sighted by young Nick was most likely mountains inland and to the south of Poverty Bay, rather than the landmark with which he was famously linked. [More online].



Miss8 and Mr6 given a chance

The Department of Conservation's Little Waihi Harbour Wildlife Management Reserve is 20 minutes east of Te Puke on the south side of the Little Waihi estuary.

DOC has just released two rescued bittern in the reserve. They were found some months ago in Tauranga, starving and skinny, and were taken to a bird rescue centre. Over the winter they were fed mice, pieces of eel and similar delicacies and brought up to a normal weight.

Bittern are rated as Critically Endangered. It's the same rating as kakapo. Their numbers have declined because swamp-land has been cleared for farming, and predators have added to their downward path by taking their eggs and chicks. The released bittern, a male and female, have transmitters attached to their backs that are designed to operate for about a year. They are nick-named Miss8 and Mr6 after their call signals. [More online]

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Way Out West – WOW!

Recently, Leon and I jumped in our car and headed way out west. With only a week of vacation, our plans were to travel the Yellowhead Highway, get as close to the Rocky Mountains as possible, see the Sherlock Holmes exhibition, and visit Drumheller, while driving leisurely enough that we were able to stop and go whenever we felt like it. All successfully achieved!

Sometimes travelling without a detailed itinerary opens the door to unexpected destinations and experiences, such as the expanse of Saskatchewan, the towns of Jasper and Canmore, a full day in the Rockies, the Royal Tyrrell Museum, the Hoodoos, and chance meetings with wildlife and wildflowers in interesting places.

In many ways, however, the best moments are unpredictable and stunning – quiet moments beside mountain streams, a rock and wood art gallery in the middle of nowhere, double rainbows after a storm, a saloon with live music at the end of a road, and stunning prairie vistas.

These photos are but a smattering of what the west had in store for us.

And if you're having trouble planning a holiday and are up for a road trip, why not forget the itinerary, simply decide on a direction – west or east or north or south – and go as far as time will allow. You never know what you might find along the way.

Jenny Gates



A road trip from the prairies to the Rockies reveals more than you might expect when you take the time to explore opportunities along the way. Photos by 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*

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Australia risks UN seat over detention centres

Secrecy surrounding Australia's off-shore immigration detention centres has sparked concern at the United Nations Human Rights Council as Australia bids for a Council seat.

A Secretary-General's report on UN cooperation listed Australia as a country potentially intimidating people from speaking out about human rights abuses to UN workers.

Last year, a UN migrant expert cancelled a visit to Australia because of the Border Force Act.

Under the Act, releasing protected information about detention centres is punishable with up to two years in jail.

The Human Rights Law Centre's director of advocacy and research Emily Howie said the Border Force Act only contributed to covering up detention centre abuse.

"It is absolutely essential that these kind of abuses come to light. But the Border Force provisions actually are buttressing what is already an incredibly harmful system."

A number of human rights NGOs accuse Australia of ignoring a wide range of rights abuses against asylum seekers and refugees at the Australia's offshore processing centres on Nauru and Papua New Guinea's Manus Island.

The Manus regional processing centre, where around 900 men are held, was found by PNG's Supreme Court in April to be illegal – PNG and Australian governments say they are working to close the centre.

Australia's Immigration Minister Peter Dutton however told a global summit on refugees in New York last month that his government's border protection policies and handling of refugees were world-leading.



Brit MPs visit tiny Norfolk Island over "Australian takeover"

Two Conservative and one Labor MP were invited to the South Pacific island by a former chief minister campaigning for it to regain political autonomy.

They arrived on Norfolk Island early last month at the invitation of a former chief minister of the island and the spokesman for the Norfolk Island People for Democracy, Andre Nobbs.

In November Nobbs travelled to London to make a presentation to the British parliament about the Australian government's decision in May last year to revoke Norfolk Island's autonomy.

Roughly halfway between Australia and New Zealand – Norfolk had been governed by its own legislative assembly since 1979, but that has now been abolished and replaced with a regional council. Australian law is now enforced on the island.

Nobbs told the British parliament why he and his organization were opposed to the Australian government takeover, and called for an independent review of the decision.

Conservative MPs Andrew Rosindell and Daniel Kawczynski, Labour MP Paula Sheriff and parliamentary adviser Lloyd Mattingley agreed to visit the island on a "fact-finding mission," Nobbs. Rosindell had visited the island in 2008, when Nobbs was chief minister, and the pair had maintained contact, Nobbs said.

"Up until this point there has been no independent review of the process Canberra used to make this decision, and we believe the Australian government has made decisions using misleading information. We hope the politicians will put pressure on the Australian government and call for an independent review."

Nobbs believes the takeover was unlawful and his group is exploring several routes to have it overturned, including appealing to the United Nations and gaining representation from the high profile human rights barrister Geoffrey Robertson QC.

The island has a grim convict history and is famous as the final refuge of some of the Bounty mutineers, whose descendants are still a prominent presence among its population of barely 1,300.

A spokesman for the minister for regional development, Fiona Nash, said the government was aware of the visiting MPs.

"The Australian administrator will of course meet with them as a matter of courtesy and we look forward to him being able to convey accurate information to the MPs," he said.

"The Australian government is focused on delivering healthcare, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, student assistance payments, pensions and social security to the island's Australian citizens. –Source: MelissaL Davey

CHRI calls for Maldives to be suspended from Commonwealth

After a recent fact-finding mission, and in light of the steady deterioration of human rights and rule of law and extension of corruption in the Maldives, the nation should be suspended from the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative says.

CHRI, the major independent player in Commonwealth HR matters, says that since the last meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) in April 2016, and the Maldivian government's continuing defiance of constitutional principles and their international commitments, the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) should take corrective action.

Points should include:

1. Suspend the Maldives from the Councils of the Commonwealth, and
2. Exclude the Maldives from all Commonwealth inter-government meetings and events, and
3. Halt all Commonwealth technical assistance, other than that of the Secretary General's Special Envoy.

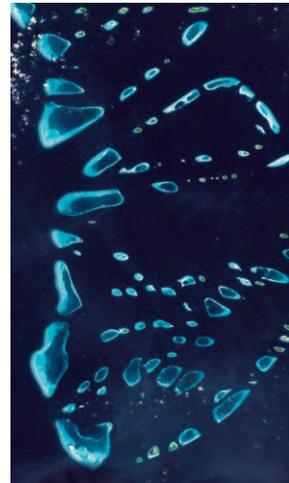
This advances Aug 25 reports on BBC News by Olivia Lang and Justin Rowlett that a move is already afoot to oust the Maldivian president Abdulla Yameen.

Sources say Yameen opponents in the tiny island nation are looking to move against him within weeks.

His spokesman told the BBC they knew of claims of an attempt to "overthrow" the government, describing it as a "clear breach of international norms".

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.





Juvenile golden-shouldered parrots. Photo: Penny Stephens

birds *i* view...

by Charlie Powell

A *Yarn* reader in Canberra sent in this story by Bridie Smith in the *Canberra Times* last month:

Golden-shouldered parrot

"In the dry season the white sandy soil is covered with leaf litter as crisp as cornflakes. It collects in the wrinkles and pot-holes and crackles as you walk.

This sandridge country in remote south-central Cape York is Olkola country – home of the Olkola people and their totem, the treasured alwal or golden-shouldered parrot.

Hopes are high as the team of ecologists, traditional owners and elders methodically make their way through the thirsty bush in search of the endangered parrots' nests.

Just a few weeks ago these nests were occupied. The fledglings have since left and are somewhere overhead in the sparse canopy of bloodwood, native quinine, melaleuca and paperbark trees.

But the slender parrots' nests won't be found in the treetops. The alwal likes to nest about a metre above ground inside the cement-coloured conical termite mounds that dot the woodlands and savannah.

"Alwal never forgot where he was created," says the quietly spoken Olkola Aboriginal Corporation chairman and elder Mike Ross. "That's why he lives in the mounds, close to the earth. I really believe that."

The Queensland government's return of five former pastoral properties to the Olkola people in December 2014 initiated the rehabilitation of more than 1 million hectares. Now, through a partnership with the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation and Bush Heritage Australia, a concerted effort is underway to "bring alwal home".

The section of Olkola country known as north Maryanne flat where this week a nest search took place has never been surveyed before. But the soaring termite mounds make Bush Heritage ecologist Allana Brown think this might be a perfect parrot patch. The birds need mounds with a base of at least a metre wide to accommodate the nest chamber the males build by burrowing with their beaks. That means suitable mounds have to be at least 50 years old."

Read more about the threats to this species – cattle use the mounds to sharpen their horns, feral pigs rub against them – causing damage; and there is footage of a feral cat raiding a nest. [Link].



Olkola elders and land managers brothers Glen Kulka (left) and Hamish Kulka (right) and Allana Brown, ecologist with Bush Heritage Australia searching for possible nests. Photo: Penny Stephens



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Thaw splits Falkland Islanders on issue of a warmer Argentina relationships

Some Falkland Islanders are protesting a recent thaw of relations between Argentina and Britain over the disputed islands.

Argentina lost a savage 1982 war with Britain over possession of the South Atlantic archipelago and mending moods has been a lengthy process..

However, both countries recently announced they would work to remove restrictions in the oil, fishing and shipping industries affecting the Falklands. They also agreed to increase the number of flights between the islands and Argentina. Not all in the islands like the idea.

And islander Faith Felton in her Port Stanley home says that it's not worth the sacrifice of those who died defending the British overseas territory. She launched an online petition last month called: "Is your cheap holiday worth their lives?"

Argentina claims Britain has illegally occupied the islands since 1833. Britain disputes the claim and says Argentina is ignoring the wishes of the 3,000 residents who want to remain under British rule.

Earthquake 160k off NZ north-east coast prompts usual "take care" warnings

The U.S. Geological Survey registered a magnitude 7.1 earthquake about 160 kilometres off the east coast of New Zealand's North Island last month.

Early fear that the quake could cause a tsunami led to the usual warnings. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said small tsunami waves were seen and recommend "normal caution. The quake comes a day after a magnitude 5.7 quake registered in the same area, 100 kilometres northeast of Te Araroa on the North Island's east coast.