

The Southern Yarn

November 2016



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

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
Sunday, December 4th (update!)
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

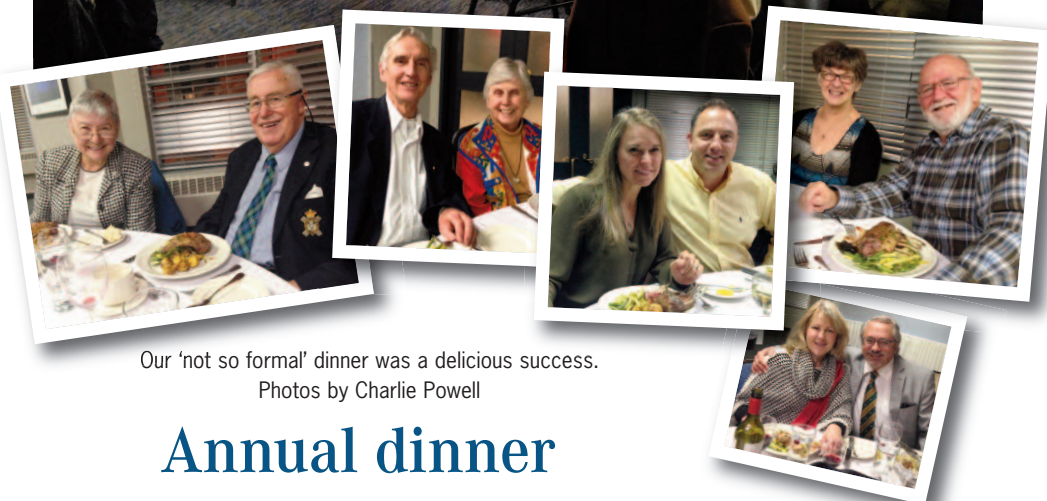
Australia Day and Waitangi Day
Saturday 28th, 2017, 6 pm
Scandinavian Cultural Centre,
764 Erin St.

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.

Advertise in The Southern Yarn. Contact Jenny (228-9959, info@downunderclub.mb.ca) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca or mail to PO Box 1655, Stn Main, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6.



Our 'not so formal' dinner was a delicious success.
Photos by Charlie Powell

Annual dinner

On Saturday 29th October we held our annual "Not So Formal" dinner at the Norwood Hotel. There were 19 club members there to enjoy the meal and the engaging company, and it was especially nice to catch up with friends we don't have the opportunity to see at every gathering. We booked the Norwood this year as a change from past years, looking to attract as many members as possible. The four course meals were really good, and one member commented it was the best lamb he had eaten in Winnipeg. The club supplied the wine for the event, good Australian and New Zealand drops. Thank you to Lucia, Hostess Extraordinaire, for looking after the dinner details, and selecting the great wines.

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of members of the Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc., will be held on **Friday, November 25th at 7:00 pm**, at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre at 764 Erin Street, Winnipeg.

Agenda: Roll Call — Secretary's Report — Committee Reports — Election of Officers — Other Business — Close of AGM

Election: All Club members in good standing are eligible to put their names forward for any position on the Board: President — Vice President — Treasurer — Secretary — Social Coordinator — Membership — Newsletter Editor

If you are interested and willing to take on any of these positions, contact Gordon Keatch at 204-832-4405, or attend the meeting and let your name stand.

online



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

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,
This Remembrance Day, I give this space over to the following:



Inspiration for "In Flanders Fields"

During the early days of the Second Battle of Ypres a young Canadian artillery officer, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, was killed on 2nd May, 1915 in the gun positions near Ypres. An exploding German artillery shell landed near him. He was serving in the same Canadian artillery unit as a friend of his, the Canadian military doctor and artillery commander Major John McCrae.

As the brigade doctor, John McCrae was asked to conduct the burial service for Alexis because the chaplain had been called away somewhere else on duty that evening. It is believed that later that evening, after the burial, John began the draft for his now famous poem "In Flanders Fields".

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae, May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



The weather has turned wet the last week or so, but temperatures are still "warm" for this time of year, so no snow to date. As I usually do, every garden clean-up task is left to the last minute, so this past weekend was spent finishing off general clean-up, putting away tools and paraphernalia, raking some leaves, and wondering when the remainder will drop.

(This report writing stops for 10 minutes while I watch the Melbourne Cup. MY tip:

Who Shot Thebarman. ... Well, it's seven minutes later and I'm back again, the race is won, my pick was dead last halfway through the race, dead last at the last turn, but finished 5th. Which may as well have been last if you were a betting man. And I still don't know Who Shot the Barman?)

But back to my ramblings! Better and warmer weather is predicted for next weekend, so that should see all the Fall cleanup completed. All that's left will be to replace the gas in the snow blower, polish the snow shovel (joking!), and practice cursing at the heavy snowfalls.

Regards, Peter



In Waihi a Field of Remembrance was laid in memory of the New Zealand Tunnelling Company. Recruited in New Zealand in 1915, the men of the Tunnelling Company arrived in France in March 1916 under the command of Major J.E. Duigan. They were the first New Zealanders to reach the Western Front. Most of the tunnellers were quarrymen, gold miners from Waihi and Karangahake, or labourers from the Railways and Public Works departments. Others were coal miners from the West Coast of the South Island, but these workers were generally discouraged from enlisting due to the essential nature of their industry.

In November 1916 the Tunnellers moved to Arras where over five months they constructed a complex system of underground galleries, subways, kitchens, headquarters and hospitals – facilities capable of comfortably housing at least 12,000 men at any one time. To assist orientation, the locations in one of the systems were all given New Zealand place names, from Bluff at one extremity to Russell at the other. The New Zealanders also left graffiti on the walls, including a large 'Kia Ora' flanked by ferns. [More online.]

Australia on Sale!

Add-on flights
are available from
all major cities.

WINNIPEG TO BRISBANE RTN C\$ 1417
depart 26 Jan – 21 Jun 2017, book by 15-Nov-2016"

Ask about add-on options including:

11 Day Coach Tour to Cairns C\$4475 p/p with 4 Star Accom

3 Days Fraser Island 4WD from Hervey Bay rtn C\$498 p/p

3 Nights – Sailing Adventure Whitsunday Islands from Airlie Beach rtn C\$430

5 Days – Dive Course live aboard from Cairns rtn C\$1099 p/p

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



400 years ago...

On 16 October 1616 Dirk Hartog landed on West Australia's largest island – it now bears his name – and took the trouble to record the wildlife species he found there. Australian Geographic reports on a multi-million \$ project to clear the feral goats, cats and sheep and reintroduce 12 of those original species. [Read more online.]



Melbourne Cup 2016 – fun facts

Well club president Peter Munn's pick didn't win the race, but it might just have the best origin for its name: Roughie *Who Shot The barman's* unusual name comes thanks to an aunt of dairy-farming owners the O'Leary brothers. Whenever she was thirsty Aunty Julie would call out "Who shot the barman?". [Read more online.]



Australian graziers outbid Rinehart for Kidman cattle empire

ABC News reported An all-Australian syndicate has made a \$386 million bid for the Kidman cattle empire, trumping that of mining magnate Gina Rinehart and her Chinese joint venture partner.

The offer by four families with extensive livestock and transport operations is unconditional and is more than the joint bid by Ms Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting and Shanghai CRED. [Read more online]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Meanwhile, across the pond ...

The man who helped spear-head the crowd-funding purchase of Awaroa Inlet for all Kiwis to enjoy is hoping another slice of Kiwi paradise will remain in New Zealand hands.

Nine months ago Duane Major and Adam Gard'ner helped raise \$2 million for the purchase of Awaroa Inlet - situated in the Abel Tasman National Park. The property has since been gifted to the Department of Conservation.

Today Major is calling on New Zealanders to unite again and do their utmost to

secure ownership of Tukurua Beach, tucked away near the tip of the South Island in Golden Bay. [Read more online.]



Something in Chicago's water?

Many of us witnessed the historic win by the Chicago Cubs over the Cleveland Indians in the 10th inning of the 7th game on Nov. 2nd – their first World Series win since 1908! Well, now (Nov 5), also in Chicago, the Irish Rugby team have bettered that by 3 years and beaten The All Blacks 40 - 29 – breaking a 111 year drought! [Read more online.]



Reconstructing 20,000 years of NZ history

Scientists will reconstruct more than 20,000 years of New Zealand's ecological history to better understand how our species will respond to climate change in the future.

A new \$300,000 Marsden Fund study, led by Dr Nic Rawlence of Otago University, will draw on the latest DNA technology to create a new window into the country's recent geological past, revealing how bird and plant life adapted to massive shifts in climate. [Read more online.]

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

Just a few stats from the Olympics in Rio, Brazil

Australia beat the USA in wheelchair rugby ("Murderball") game 59 - 58 in double overtime for back-to-back Gold. [Read more online.]

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Rank	Rank per capita
Olympics						
AUS	8	11	10	29	8	14
NZ	4	9	5	18	14	4
CAN	4	3	15	22	10	31

Paralympics						
AUS	22	30	29	81	5	3
NZ	9	5	7	21	18	1
CAN	8	10	11	29	14	31

Ryley Batt (pictured) starred again with 22 of the goals. Ryley Douglas Batt was born on 22 May 1989 without legs and had surgery to separate his webbed fingers. Up to the age of twelve, he did not use a wheelchair, preferring to move around on a skateboard. [Read more online.]



Butterflied Leg of Lamb

Recipe I got years and years ago out of *Life Magazine*. The chef was the well known NY Times Craig Claiborne, I think.

- 6 - 7 lb leg of lamb, boned and butterflied
- 1 clove garlic crushed
- 3/4 cup oil
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 tsp dry mustard
- 1 - 2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 1/2 tsp basil
- 1/8 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1 bay leaf crushed

In Dutch oven pot, mix garlic, oil, vinegar, onion, mustard, herbs and seasonings together. Place butterflied lamb in marinade and spoon over top. Cover. Refrigerate overnight. Turn meat at least once. (Lately I have been using a big plastic bag to marinate the meat.)

Place meat in broiler pan fat side up and broil 4 inches from heat 10 minutes. Turn and baste with marinade, then broil other side for 10 minutes.

Lower temperature to 425°F. Roast meat for 15 minutes. Test meat with sharp knife. Meat should be pink and juicy.

Browned bits of onion on surface of meat will add to the flavour but you can scrape off if you wish. Carve against grain in thin slices.

- Shared by Betsy Burt, inspired by the delicious lamb served at the annual dinner

NOW IS THE TIME to renew for 2017

Individual \$20 ... Couple/family \$30 ... Mail your cheques to the Club at the address on the back of this issue, pay in person at the next event, or take advantage of our new **PayPal** link on the website for faster and more secure payment. Any questions or comments, please contact Peter Debenham at peter@pdlactg.ca or 204-955-0393.



Annual Fees:
☐ Single \$20
☐ Family \$30

Register and pay online or return
this form with payment to:
DUCW
PO Box 1655 Stn Main,
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 2Z6

For more information:
(204) 832-4405
info@downunderclub.mb.ca
www.downunderclub.mb.ca

The Down Under Club of Winnipeg Inc. Membership Application Form (also available online on our website)

Name: _____
Affiliation: ☐ New Zealand ☐ Australia ☐ Other: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
Telephone: Res. _____ Bus. _____
email: _____
Invite me to join the DUCW website for regular updates and notices: ☐ yes ☐ no
The Southern Yarn newsletter preference: ☐ postal ☐ download from web site (PDF)
Name and type of your work, business: _____
Family Applications: Partner/Spouse: _____
Children: (under 18, include birthdates) _____

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





childcare costs hits Kiwis a third of family income

The Human Rights Commission has expressed concern about the recently released Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report which states that New Zealand couples spend nearly a third of their income on childcare.

"Affordable childcare contributes to the realization of wider human rights issues for women such as equal opportunity at work and equal pay," said Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Dr Jackie Blue.

"High quality, low cost child care is essential for low and medium income women returning to the work force after having children."

OECD is funded by its member countries. National contributions are based on a formula which takes account of the size of each member's economy. The largest contributor is the United States, which provides nearly 21% of the budget, followed by Japan.

Countries may also make voluntary contributions to financially support outputs in the OECD programme of work.

The report "Society at a Glance 2016" states the average cost cross OECD member countries for two parent households is much lower at 13%.

At present New Zealand women are only entitled to a maximum of 16 weeks paid parental leave after having a child, however the universal subsidy for 20 hours per week free childcare only comes into effect when a child turns three years old. It is the time in between where there is a concern about the cost of childcare and the effect on women returning to work.

"Lower paid women who cannot afford to delay their return to work may be forced to compromise on childcare and care for children when they should be sleeping after shift work for example. Middle income women may delay returning to the work force" said Dr Blue.

"In Eastern European countries, there are high numbers of women in senior management roles. This is attributed in part to having low cost, high quality childcare attached to workplaces. It would be great for all working mum's in New Zealand if the cost of childcare was lower." –Source: Scoop media cartel

Nauru camp torture: Oz PM says Amnesty claims are false

Australia has rejected a claim by rights group Amnesty International that conditions on a tiny South Pacific island where about 400 Australian-bound asylum seekers are held "amount to torture".

Under Australia's tough immigration policy, asylum seekers intercepted trying to reach the country by boat are sent for processing at a camp in Nauru or to Manus Island in Papua New Guinea and are not eligible for resettlement in Australia.

Many asylum seekers on Nauru are being driven to attempt suicide to escape the prison-like conditions they face in indefinite detention, Amnesty alleged in a detailed report.

"I reject that claim totally. It is absolutely false," Malcolm Turnbull, the prime minister, told Australian Broadcasting Corp radio on Oct 18 of the torture claim.

"The Australian government's commitment is compassionate and strong."

The detention was a "systematic regime of neglect and cruelty," said Amnesty, adding that its findings were based on both desk research and field work in Nauru between July and October.

Almost 60 people, or about 15% of the 410 men, women and children on the island, reported they had either attempted suicide or had thoughts about harming themselves, Amnesty said.

Despite receiving refugee status, they continue to be confined to poor accommodation with little access to medical care, it said, adding that children, who number just over a tenth of the detainees, suffered disproportionately.

"I met children as young as nine who had already tried to kill themselves and were talking openly about ending their lives," said Anna Neistat, an Amnesty International official. Amnesty's report, titled *Island of Despair*, joins a chorus of criticism by human rights groups of Australia's immigration policy, and comes just weeks after the UN said Nauru was failing to protect children.

Australia's foreign donations fiasco and reforms

Controversy surrounding foreign political donations in Australia is not new. Most recently, Australian Labor Party (ALP) Senator Sam Dastyari was forced to resign from the shadow ministry following allegations he accepted money from multiple Chinese donors. These controversies have prompted calls for a ban on foreign political donations.

But this puts the cart before the horse.

Before jumping to 'how' to regulate foreign political donations, three questions need to be answered. What is the problem with 'foreign' political donations? Why are there particular concerns with 'Chinese' political donations? And why should such donations be regulated?

The concern with overseas-based donors or foreign-sourced donations is one of compliance. Enforcement of Australia's electoral laws overseas is impossible. Such donations form a small, but not insignificant portion of total political donations in Australia – and they appear to be growing. Foreign-sourced donations made to political parties from 1998 to 2015 have generally increased in nominal terms over the past 16 years and have formed an increasing proportion of total donations to Australian political parties.

In the financial year of the 2013 federal election, foreign-sourced donations constituted over 6% of all donations. In the prior financial year they had hit 10%. China and Hong Kong are the main countries of origin for these donations. In the past 16 financial years, over 83% of all foreign-sourced donations originated from China or Hong Kong. The next biggest contributor was Great Britain, which accounted for just over ten per cent of all foreign-sourced donations.

While both the major parties benefit from foreign-sourced donations, the ALP receives more of these funds.

So how should Australia deal with foreign donations?

It should ban foreign-sourced donations – as best as it is able. At the same time, Australia should accept that 'foreigners' have a stake in the country they live in, work in and come to belong in – including migrants to Australia. But more importantly, Australia should reform the federal political finance laws in order to protect the integrity of Australia's democracy. Source – East Asia Forum.

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.



Thank you to Debrah Novak for her beautiful photo!! [Link.]

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Tawny Frogmouth

Before moving to Winnipeg 25 years ago, we lived in Laidley, in rural Queensland. There was an enormous camphor laurel tree in a neighbour's backyard. That was where I often saw a tawny frogmouth – perched motionless and branch-like – a master of camouflage. I found it because I was looking for the bird making a distinctive nocturnal call. I now know that I was not alone in confusing the frogmouth with the mopoke, or boobook owl. I guess the owl was nearby but I only spotted the frogmouth, more closely related to nightjars than owls.

Apart from the call, other differences from owls are the weaker legs and talons of the frogmouths; their broad frog-like beak; their lack of face discs; their eyes are large and yellow, similar to owls, but are at the sides of the head rather than the front; frogmouths build their nest in the fork of a tree while owls prefer tree-hollows.

There are 3 subspecies of *Podargus strigoides* (roughly translates to “gouty owl-like”) which between them cover most of Australia, where they are native. The regions they tend to avoid are the dense rainforests of north Queensland and the very arid interior and west. Provided they are healthy, most of their feeding is done at night. Their diet consists of bugs, beetles, grasshoppers, moths, worms, insects, centipedes, millipedes and



Frogmouth. Photo © Larry Dunis 2008 [Link.]

scorpions – so frogmouths are considered very effective pest control birds. They use their beak to also catch other prey, such as small birds, reptiles, frogs and mammals.

Here's a fun progressive poem aired by Justine Frazier on the ABC on 06/07/2011

The Tawny Frog-Mouth

Eliot - I saw a tawny frog-mouth with a frog in its mouth.....Frog legs were sticking out and squirming, but the head was going south...

Bruce - And so I paused to ponder, how can nature be so cruel?.....But beady eyes they didn't wander, as that beak began to drool...

Halden - The frog it cried "Please don't eat me, you must be full, you've already eaten seven" but the tawny laughed out loud "I'm afraid you are off to Heaven"....The tawny squawked and flapped around really trying to choke it. But alas the dear old frog it finally sadly croaked it!

Lance - But NO....because with that, the green tree frog jumped out of the snout of the frog-mouth....

Denise - It was a cane toad instead, and now the tawny frogmouth is dead!"

Phil - It jumped into the line of the green tree snake who immediately spied another life to take.....

Robbie - Then a wedge tail eagle flew by....the toad had a break...

Matt - To the snake and bird it is now an ode, for I'm not a frog but a big cane TOAD."

Jo - So beware Australian natives, the invader's a poisonous brew....Take care when munching luncheon, it's not a cane toad stew!"



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.

Singapore firm on retaining its version of the death penalty

In clockwork fashion since 2008, the UN General Assembly has deliberated every two years the question of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it. As the death penalty remains in the statutes, Singapore is a prominent retentionist state in the serious debate on the death penalty with the introduction of discretionary regime..

Last month, Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan put forth Singapore's "contrarian views" on the death penalty at a high-level side event at the assembly.

Noting that the debate is a "heated, painful and emotional one", he affirmed Singapore's belief that "all human life is sacred" and the paramount objective to protect all human life.

Like his predecessor in 2014, he posited that the relevant question in the debate on the death penalty was "whether in very limited circumstances, it is legitimate to have the death penalty so that the larger interest of society is served."

Thus, the rights of the offenders must be weighed against the rights of the victims and their families, and the "broader rights of the community and society to live in peace and security,"

Dr Balakrishnan stated that capital punishment for certain drug-related offences and for murder is a "key element" in keeping Singapore drug-free and safe. He reiterated that every state has the sovereign right and duty "to decide for itself what works, and to take into account its own circumstances".-

Source: The Straits Times