

The Southern Yarn

March 2018



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

MARCH

Commonwealth Day celebration
Monday, March 12, 7:00 pm

Cathedral Church of Saint John

135 Anderson Avenue, Winnipeg

See invitation on page 3 for all details.

Casual get-together
Saturday 17th March, 2:00 pm

at the High Tea Bakery

2103 Portage Ave, Winnipeg

It happens to be St Patrick's Day, so you might decide to order Green tea. Upstairs, the Bakery has 17 seats and a few more downstairs. Give Judy a call at 204 275 7083 and plan to join us on this fun occasion.

Touch Rugby tournament
Saturday, March 24

Leila Soccer Complex

See details in events text, right.

APRIL

Rabbit-Proof Fence screening
Sunday April 8th, 2:00, 3:45 pm

Millennium Library

See details in events text, right.

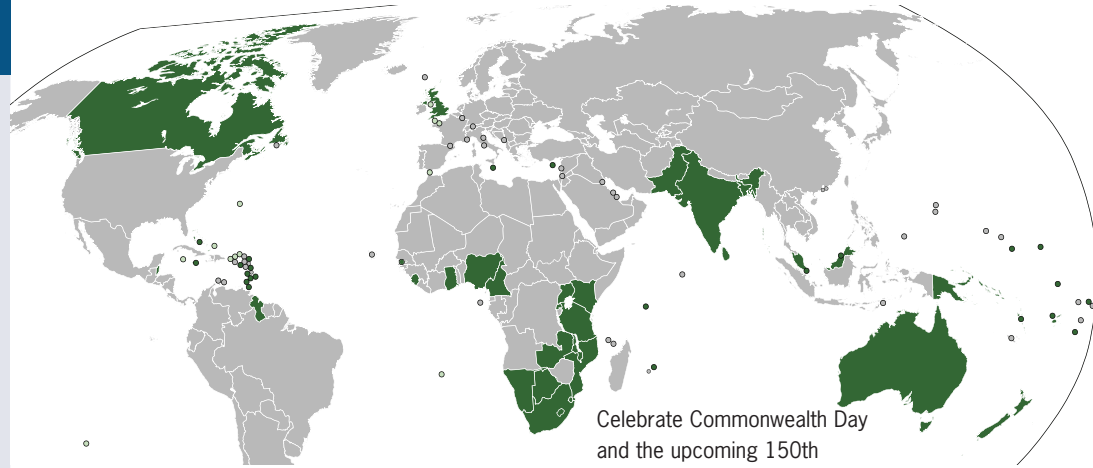
ANZAC Day
Saturday 28th April 2018, 5 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre

764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service, singing of our national anthems, followed by a delicious POTLUCK dinner. This is always a memorable event, so come and be a part of it, and the fun to follow. We may even have a game of darts! And don't forget – the Bar will be open

If you'd like to suggest a new social event, we're happy to help you plan it for the Club!



Celebrate Commonwealth Day and the upcoming 150th anniversary of its formation.

March into lots of fun events

There is a lot going on between now and early April, all with a distinctly downunder flavour.

Monday March 12 – the Royal Commonwealth Society, Manitoba Branch, and friends are celebrating **Commonwealth Day**. See the formal invitation on page 3. Several members of the DUCW have attended this event in the past, and because of a change in venue, the event is now open to all!

Saturday March 17 – afternoon tea at the High Tea Bakery (www.highteabakery.com) – all details in the Calendar on this page. Not only does the Bakery have yummy treats and a selection of teas and coffees, but there is a bright and open space on the second floor for us to sit and relax and enjoy the eats and the ambiance of this lovely location. All ages welcome.

Saturday March 24 – Winnipeg Touch Rugby's 2nd Annual Touch Tournament at the Leila Soccer Complex (770 Leila Ave), starting at 8:00 am, with finals getting underway at 1:30 pm. Everyone is invited to join in the fun in one of several ways:

- *Players* – \$20 per player
- *Referees*
- *Supporters*
- *Sponsors* – WTR is NOT looking for money, but they are looking for any gifts to present to the winning teams on your behalf

For more information, visit Winnipeg Touch Rugby at www.facebook.com/winnipegtouch

Now until **Monday April 2** – Assiniboine Park Conservatory is closing and will eventually reopen as the Diversity Gardens ([link](#)). It is currently home to a number of plants from down under, as well as being a lovely quiet spot to spend some time.

Sunday April 8 – **Rabbit-Proof Fence** is being screened at the Millennium Library between 2:00 and 3:45 pm. At a time when it

was Australian government policy to train aboriginal children as domestic workers and integrate them into white society, young Molly Craig decides to lead her little sister and cousin in a daring escape from their internment camp. Part of what would

become known as Australia's "Stolen Generation," Molly and the girls must then elude authorities on a dangerous 1,500-mile adventure along the rabbit-proof fence that bisects the continent and will lead them home. 94 min. Rated PG. NB: An event will also be on at the Bell MTS Centre, so consider taking a bus, or arriving in plenty of time to scout a good parking spot.

Join us for one, two or all of these events, and make it a month to remember.



online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



While looking around (Googling) for something newsworthy for “100 years ago ...”, I came across “German Spring Offensive – March 1918” [link]. It was a massive effort to break through allied lines that basically failed because of its success – advancing fast and light, the German forces got too far ahead of their backup supplies. The AIF played a critical part in defending Villers-Bretonneux. The photo below shows French children tending graves at Adelaide Cemetery of Australians killed in battle on the Western Front, Villers-Bretonneux. The staggering reality is the cost in human lives – the Allies alone lost

nearly 255,000 men (British, British Empire and



French) over the course of just one of the battles! From the comfort of our freedom 100 years on, it is easy to criticize motivations, attitudes and tactics of those times, but we can't afford to forget the sacrifices or relax any efforts towards peace in our day. So the DUCW is planning again for our ANZAC Day commemoration, **Saturday 28th April**.

I also found reference to **Walter Burley Griffin**, who we all know designed Canberra. Not everything went smoothly with that – bureaucrats and a costly war. Aside from the city's design, his longest-living legacy is the forest of Redwood trees (both *Sequoia sempervirens* and *Sequoiadendron giganteum*) planted in 1918 by Walter Burley Griffin and arborist **Thomas Charles Weston** on Piliago Avenue, ACT, between Canberra and Queanbeyan. You can read his interesting story online [link].

Staying with Australian history, you can read about Flynn of the Inland in “Getting to know ...” on p. 4. This month's “Birds I view” looks at Honeyeaters, p.6. Thank you to our usual contributors – Peter, Murray, Jenny, Brian and our advertisers.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Margaret and I recently attended a wedding at the Fort Garry Hotel, held in the ballroom area on the 7th floor. The hotel is a great reminder of the grandeur of Winnipeg in “the olden times”, and the work, foresight and dollars expended by Richard Bel and Ida Albo to keep in working order this 100 year old beauty. Winnipeg is now doing a

far better job of retaining our beautiful building history, both by our city building regulations, and the builder/developers that are buying our heritage buildings, and renovating the warehouses, lofts and other facilities into great living spaces and commercial properties.

Next time you are in the exchange district, take a good look around you, it is a great part of our city. And though it is still under construction, I look forward to seeing True North square and the related buildings that the Chipman family is developing. Winnipeggers have committed a lot of effort to keep this city growing and vibrant.

2ND PLACE WINNER – ALETA KOTYLAK

The Best Thai Coconut Soup

Prep 35 minutes, cooking 30 minutes, serves 8
3 (13.5 ounce) cans **coconut milk**

1 tablespoon **vegetable oil**

2 tablespoons grated fresh **ginger**

1 stalk **lemon grass**, minced

2 teaspoons **red curry paste**

4 cups **chicken broth**

3 tablespoons **fish sauce**

1 tablespoon **light brown sugar**

½ pound fresh **shiitake mushrooms**, sliced

1 pound medium **shrimp** – peeled, deveined

2 tablespoons fresh **lime juice**

salt to taste

¼ cup chopped fresh **cilantro**

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Cook and stir the ginger, lemongrass, and curry paste in the heated oil for 1 minute. Slowly pour the chicken broth over the mixture, stirring continually. Stir in the fish sauce and brown sugar; simmer for 15 minutes. Stir in the coconut milk and mushrooms; cook and stir until the mushrooms are soft, about 5 minutes. Add the shrimp; cook until no longer translucent about 5 minutes. Stir in the lime juice; season with salt; garnish with cilantro. [Link] “Authentic, bold, and delicious Thai flavours make this soup irresistible! This is the best Thai coconut soup I've had. Serve over steamed rice.” (Review)

Merry Christmas in The Cook Islands!

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Freddie McEvoy, Australia's first Winter Olympian

[Robert Upe, with Brian Yatman, SMH, 24Feb2018] The first Australian to win a Winter Olympics medal was Freddie McEvoy, a daredevil bobsledder who took bronze at the 1936 Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, as captain of the four-man British bob team. [Read more online]



What about old Zealand?

Zeeland is the westernmost and least populous province of the Netherlands. The province, located in the south-west of the country, consists of a number of islands and peninsulas (hence its name, meaning "Sealand") and a strip bordering Belgium. [Read more online]



What about the other Zealand?

Zealand is an island and part of Denmark. It has about 40% of the country's population. Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, is located partly on the eastern shore of Zealand and partly on the island of Amager. [Read more online]

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY INVITATION

Please join us at this fascinating site for a reminder of history

Our RCS branch and the St John's Cathedral are joining forces to mark a very important **150th anniversary of the Commonwealth.**

It is slated for **7:00 p.m., Monday March 12** in the **Cathedral Church of Saint John** (135 Anderson Avenue).

The program is simple:

- We are the guests of St John's Cathedral's Dean, the Very Rev Paul Johnson, who will conduct a brief service.
- The Rev Helen Kennedy, of St George's Transcona, an RCS member, will read Her Majesty The Queen's Commonwealth message.
- Murray Burt, president of RCS Manitoba and national vice-chairman, will present a Status of the Commonwealth report touching mainly on its growth, but also on critical issues that CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Govt) will debate in London in April.
- Light refreshments.

The big plus of the site for our RCS celebration this year is the magnificence of its location. The Cathedral is fascinating for its looks, size, design, wondrous period furnishings and above all the history it records

and projects (note the tiny brass panels on seats significant personalities occupied). Built in 1833, records identify it as being the birthplace of the first Anglican church in Western Canada. Its present reconstruction dates from 1926.

Elizabeth Burt
Secretary

The Commonwealth is one of the world's oldest political association of states. Its roots go back to the British Empire when some countries were ruled directly or indirectly by Britain. Some of these countries became self-governing while retaining Britain's monarch as Head of State. They formed the British Commonwealth of Nations.

In 1949 the association we know today – The Commonwealth – came into being. Since then, independent countries from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific have joined The Commonwealth.

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John Flynn “Flynn of the Inland”

[the following is reproduced from Wikipedia]

Educated at Snake Valley, Sunshine and Braybrook primary schools, he matriculated from University High School Parkville, aged 18. Unable to finance a university course, he became a pupil-teacher with the Victorian Education Department and developed interests in photography and first aid. In 1903 he began training for the ministry through an extra-mural course for 'student lay pastors', serving meanwhile in pioneering districts of Beech Forest and Buchan. His next four years in theological college were interspersed with two periods on a shearers' mission and the publication of his *Bushman's Companion* (1910).

Always thinking of the needs of those in isolated communities, in September 1910 Flynn published *The Bushman's Companion* which was distributed free throughout inland Australia. He took up the opportunity to succeed E.E. Baldwin as the Smith of Dunesk Missioner at Beltana, a tiny settlement 500 kilometres north of Adelaide. He was ordained in Adelaide for this work in January 1911. The missionaries visited the station properties in a wide radius of Beltana, and their practical and spiritual service was valued in the isolated localities. Flynn used it as an opportunity to look at the potential for something bigger. By 1912, after writing a report for his church superiors on the difficulties of ministering to such a widely scattered population, Flynn was made the first superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission. As well as tending to spiritual matters, Flynn quickly established the need for medical care for residents of the vast Australian outback, and established a number of bush hospitals.

By 1917, Flynn was already considering the possibility of new technology, such as radio and aircraft, to assist in providing a more useful acute medical service, and then received a letter from an Australian pilot serving in World War I, Clifford Peel, who had heard of Flynn's speculations and outlined the capabilities and costs of then-available planes. This material was published in



John Flynn was always thinking of the needs of those living in Australia's isolated communities. He founded the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

the church's magazine, the start of Flynn turning his considerable fund-raising talents to the task of establishing a flying medical service. The first flight of the Aerial Medical Service was in 1928 from Cloncurry, Queensland. A museum commemorating the founding of the Royal Flying Doctor Service is located at John Flynn Place in Cloncurry. [Read more online]

Consular Considerations

A sincere welcome to Australia's new High Commissioner to Canada, Her Excellency **Natasha Smith**.

High Commissioner Smith is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently First Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Development and Finance Division. She has previously served in Jakarta and at Australia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Australia and Canada share close ties, history, common values, and strong people-to-people and economic links.

High Commissioner Smith looks forward to furthering the #AusCan relationship. We look forward to meeting her when she has the time and opportunity to visit Winnipeg.

Although we didn't get the opportunity to meet personally with Tony Negus, the outgoing High Commissioner, we did meet with others during his time in the big chair and appreciate the efforts made to extend the HC's reach all the way to Manitoba.



House Wanted to Rent

If you are planning on being away for part of the summer and need someone to look after your house for a week, Aussie Trent Boyd would like to rent it from you. Trent and his family will be here from Saturday July 7 to Friday July 13 to visit friends and explore the city. Back in December 2016, we helped Trent find a restaurant here so he could arrange a gift certificate for his friends, and now the whole family is coming to visit. If you are interested in getting in contact with Trent about this, contact Jenny at 204-228-9959 or info@downunderclub.mb.ca and I will put you in touch with him.

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WAU sex assault cases increase

There are fears the number of sexual harassment allegations recorded at one of Western Australia's most prestigious universities could be inaccurate due to an ingrained fear of reporting incidents on campus.

A document from the university released last month revealed there were 32 reports involving UWA students or staff between 2011 and 2016. The university was named in the report for allegations that went back over five years ago.

However, the release of the Red Zone report by advocacy group End Rape on Campus has solidified past findings from a snapshot anonymous survey by the Human Rights Commission back in 2017, which indicated around 94% of students who were sexually harassed and 87% of those sexually assaulted didn't make a formal report or complaint to their university.

"In interpreting this data, it is important to note that very few survivors report their experiences of sexual assault to either police or their university," the report read. – SOURCE: WA Today

Oz PM overstepping with sex ban

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's sex ban rules on relationships are excessive as they are a human right, according to an employment law specialist.

Turnbull has said that he will ban ministers and their staff from having sex, after it was revealed his deputy, Barnaby Joyce, had an affair with a former staffer. Joyce is to take leave of absence and will not act as the Prime Minister whilst Turnbull visits America, despite both claiming no current rules have been broken.

Ronnie Fox, an employment law specialist, told Jamie East and Melanie Sykes: "Saying no sex between ministers and member of staff I just think has gone way over the top. It's a basic principle of human rights that people can have relationships with whom they like." He said that, in fact, workplaces are "the most popular place for forming relationships." – SOURCE: Live Radio

NZ PM to march in Pride parade

Last month, Jacinda Ardern became the first NZ Prime Minister to walk in Auckland Pride. The festival last month, in its sixth year, saw 70 floats and 25,000-30,000 partic-

ipants and spectators.

Ardern, elected last year, marched with the crowd, posed for pictures, and cut the last rainbow ribbon. While previous prime ministers have attended Auckland Pride, she was first to march in it.

"I've marched so many times, so I guess it's surprising to me that it hasn't happened already," she told TVNZ. "Ultimately this is a parade about diversity and inclusiveness. And I'm really proud of the work the team has done to make that real over the years and in our laws."

Ardern made it clear that didn't mean NZ could be complacent. "As long as there are kids in NZ, if they are LGBTQI, if they have high levels of mental health issues or self harm, that tells us that we still have work to do." Parade producer Shaughan Woodcock told The New Zealand Herald that Arden's decision to march was a huge step forward. – SOURCE: Zachary Zane.

Kiwis laud disability care review

The Human Rights Commission is welcoming a decision by the Court of Appeal to overturn a Ministry of Health ruling on disability care, saying the area needs an overhaul.

The court ruled late last month that the ministry must revise its decision to only pay Diane Moody for 17 hours a week at minimum wage for the care of her 51-year-old severely disabled son Shane Chamberlain who required care 24/7.

Disability Rights Commissioner Paula Tesoriero said the decision recognized the hardships families faced caring for disabled adult family members and it was an opportune time to review how Funded Family Care was implemented.

The court also noted the complexity of the law on funding eligibility for disability support services, saying: "They verge on the impenetrable." – SOURCE: News Now

UN envoy advises Fiji on poll

As Fiji prepares for this year's general election, it is crucial for the country to ensure that there is an environment conducive to a participatory process.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, echoed these sentiments during a press conference at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva last month.

Mr Hussein said as a young democracy, Fiji had an opportunity in the forthcoming election to empower civil society organizations to serve as observers, to ensure a free and credible election.

"There are concerns that the election date is yet to be announced, this may leave

political parties and civil society little time to engage and participate meaningfully," he said.

Mr Hussein recommended having international observers to monitor Fiji's elections.

– SOURCE: Fiji Times, Luke Nacei

Kiwi fertility clinic nixes service to gay cancer patient

A New Zealand fertility clinic has informed a gay man with leukemia that he cannot freeze his sperm, a right that is routinely offered to heterosexual couples.

Logan Morton, 22, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in April of 2017. Morton's cancer diagnosis means that a rapid growth of abnormal cells will interfere with his normal blood cell function. Chemotherapy is the primary treatment to reduce the cell count to a normal range and, hopefully, lead to remission. Bone marrow transplants and other treatments may also be used.

Chemotherapy has a number of side effects, however, including infertility. As a matter of course, the NZ health system allows patients who plan to undergo this treatment the chance to freeze their sperm for future use. Or, in the sad eventuality of the patient's death, their partner can have children. At least, that would be the case if Morton was in a heterosexual relationship.

Instead, Morton was told that, due to policies that haven't been amended since the early 2000s, the fertility clinic he contacted couldn't cater to same-gender couples. And if he didn't plan to preserve his sperm for a female partner, it would be destroyed.

Fertility Associates chair Dr. Mary Bird-sall has now said that the policy will be changed. – SOURCE: Care 2; by Steve Williams

Read more most issues from Commonwealth Corner on page seven of the electronic version of *The Southern Yarn*.

Murray Burt is a retired editor and journalist who is concerned that lesser elements of the Commonwealth get poor media coverage. 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

Honeyeaters?

We call them honeyeaters, but do they really feed on honey? Bees make honey. I have never seen a bird raiding a beehive. Some bears are brave enough to do it. There are birds called bee-eaters. I enjoyed watching Rainbow Bee-eaters in the Top End in the 1970s – but I digress.

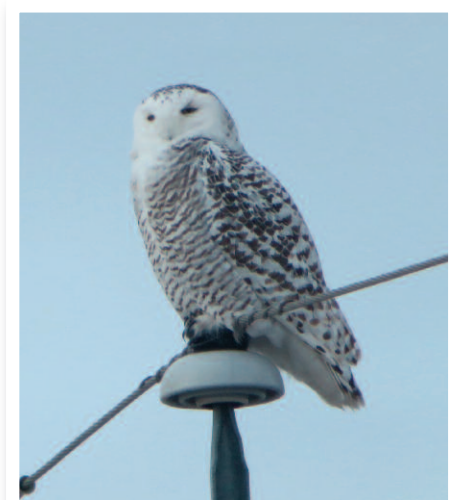
A more accurate name for honey eaters is “nectivores”. Apart from nectar, they typically also feed on pollen, sap from eucalypts and wattles, insects, berries and soft fruit.

Pictured above is a blue-faced honeyeater, but Australia actually has more than half of the over 180 species of honeyeaters worldwide. They include wattlebirds, silvereyes, chats, friarbirds and miners. There is and has been an obvious symbiosis between honeyeaters and Australia’s flowering plants and trees. The rest of them are found in New Guinea, Pacific islands and just three in New Zealand (apart from vagrant visitors) – the tui, bellbird and stitchbird.

The nectivores actually consist of 3 separate groups – hummingbirds, sunbirds and honeyeaters. The one we enjoy each summer is the ruby-throated hummingbird.



Top left: **Blue-faced honeyeater** [link]. Above: **Tui** [link]. Bottom left: **Ruby throated hummingbird** [link]. Below: **Female snowy owl**.



Reader feedback:

We saw this female snowy owl recently near Plum Coulee, MB

Here are some links sent in that may be of interest:

With a little help, most-threatened parrot might have turned a corner: [link].

Should you be feeding birds? The answer isn’t so simple. [Link].

G'day from the Hinrichsen family

Grant, Alanna, Kaitlyn and Luke Hinrichsen send their best regards to all their mates in the DUCW. The family relocated to Orange, NSW, in January 2017, and although the transition was challenging in various ways, life has definitely settled into its own rhythm for them all. Both Grant and Alanna have jobs, and Kaitlyn and Luke are excelling at sports, made some wonderful new friends, and doing well in school.

Grant recently sent a detailed email to the Club, so if you want to know what they are up to these days, contact info@downunderclub.mb.ca and I will send that email out to you.



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Govt backs in principle more Kiwi HR protection

David Parker, Andrew Little and Jacinda Ardern last month explained giving the courts a statutory power to make declarations of inconsistency under the Bill of Rights Act.

Kiwis' human rights are set to be given greater protection after Cabinet approved, in principle, to amend the NZ Bill of Rights Act.

The change provides a statutory power for the senior courts to make declarations of inconsistency under the Act, and requires Parliament to respond.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, along with Justice Minister Andrew Little and Attorney-General David Parker, announced the move, which has also been welcomed by the Green Party and ACT leader David Seymour.~SOURCE: STUFF, NZ