

# The Southern Yarn

June 2018



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

## downundercalendar

### JULY

**Annual All-Age Pool Party**  
**Sunday 8th July, 3 pm**  
**at Jason and Lynley Davidson's**  
**57 D'Arcy Drive, Winnipeg**

AN ANNUAL FAVOURITE FOR THE KIDS! The Club provides burgers, bangers and buns. The rest is potluck – so bring a side-dish, salad, dessert, etc. Call Lynley at **204-275-7631** or **204-943-3775** to let her know you're coming.

### AUGUST

**Golf Tournament**  
**Saturday 25th August**  
**at The Players**  
**2695 Inkster Blvd.**

Tee time is 10:45 for 18 holes (\$40 or \$35 for seniors); or 1:00pm for 9 holes (\$25 or \$22 for seniors). All ages and abilities are welcome. Call Peter Munn at 204-237-1805 to book your entry.

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



Most of our events include a potluck component, where you can contribute something from your own creation, but the Club often provides some special treats like these beautiful cupcakes. Join us each time and taste the surprises.



Peter Munn, Lynley Davidson, Penny Hechter, Terry Roberts, New Zealand High Commissioner to Ottawa Dan Mellisop, Les Fitt and Katrina Epp, Betsy and Murray Burt, and Jenny Gates.

## Excellent DUCW Events in April

April was a busy and exciting time for the DUCW, starting with our ANZAC Day event on Saturday April 28. A large turnout of almost 50 people included members and guests, potential new members, and our friends from the General Monash Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. We were especially fortunate to welcome Rick Sellwood as our trumpet player for parts of the formal service. There was also a wonderful selection of eats and treats, and special thanks to Debbie Griffiths for her ANZAC-inspired cupcakes. The evening included several games of two-up where Charlie Powell was ably assisted by many of the children attending.

Next up on April 30, we were delighted to welcome Dan Mellisop, the New Zealand High Commissioner to Ottawa, who was visiting Manitoba for business and made time to meet with some of us – Murray and Betsy Burt, Lynley Davidson, Terry Roberts, Penny Hechter, Les Fitt and Katrina Epp, Peter Munn and Jenny Gates. The King's Head Pub was the perfect location for conversation about a variety of topics over a beer or two and some chips and shepherd's pie. Always great to meet and swap stories and ideas with our High Commissioners to Canada.

– Jenny Gates



online



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## editorially yours

Charlie Powell



Apologies for not getting a Yarn together for May, but I was away for half the month, downunder. The primary reason was a reunion of the class of '69 who attended Queensland Agricultural College – it was certainly great to meet “old” mates again. Of course, with every trip back “home” there are always many reunions – other friends, family and, naturally for me, the birds. I managed to photograph about 40 different birds and chose one of them, the fan-tailed cuckoo, for *Birds I view* this month, p.6.

Thank you to Jenny Gates for her summary of our ANZAC commemoration on April 28th. While in Queensland, I also visited the Sandgate Museum –



friendly volunteers and a very well-presented display of memorabilia – I noticed a protected copy of “The Anzac Book”. I have since found a pdf copy online – 100% the words of the men who wrote them in 1915 at Gallipoli. Something else that caught my eye was a notice on a lamp-post on the South Bank in Brisbane calling for new sensitivities to events of history.

Thank you also to Catherine Bowering for her second part of the Nancy Wake story, *Getting to know*, p.4 – it's a big help having such articles written and offered.

Others who have contributed this month are Peter, Murray, Judy, Malcolm and our sponsors – Thank you!

**Remember Major Sumner?** He led Tal-Kin-Jeri aboriginal dancers at the 2000 and 2004 Folklorama pavilions hosted by DUCW. Well, he's still going strong, and leading the cause through the Green Party. The Greens have likened the upcoming by-election in the South Australian seat of Mayo to “groundhog day”, saying it will again be fought



over the River Murray, and have revealed Ngarindjeri elder Major 'Moogy' Sumner as their candidate. [Read more online] [ABC News: Isadora Bogle, 17th May 2018]

## president's ramblings

Peter Munn



It was an exciting time for Winnipeg hockey fans all round the world, and especially here in Winnipeg, as our Jets powered their way through the first two rounds of the Stanley Cup playoffs, before losing in the third. What a thrill ride. For the long-suffering Bombers fans, I hope they have a season to remember as well. It was longer than a month or so ago that the Commonwealth Games, held mainly on the Gold Coast, came to a close. There were some spectacular venues, and for those who caught some

of the coverage on CBC, it was great viewing. Still in the sports reporter mode, Downunder drivers were brilliantly represented this past weekend in certainly the most spectacular of all Formula One races, held on the streets of Monaco. Young Kiwi driver Brendon Hartley is now in his second season with Toro Rosso, unfortunately did not finish the race, which was won by West Australian Daniel Ricciardo, driving for Red Bull.

We are running our golf tournament in late August, set yourself some free time on your calendar for the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, and join us for a relaxing day playing either nine or 18 holes. Good company, easier course, and no one takes it too seriously. Guaranteed good time will be had by all.

80 years ago ...

### Trump and the Melbourne Cup - who knew?

“The Trump” was an Australian-bred Thoroughbred racehorse who won the Caulfield-Melbourne Cup double as well as two other principal (Group One) (G1) races in 1937. He showed his versatility by winning races over distances of six furlongs to two miles. [From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Read more online.]



## Merry Christmas From the Cook Islands!

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## Edible board games

[Australian Food News: Jack Cain] Game designer Jenn Sandercock has created 12 edible tabletop games so far, all of which require a trip to the supermarket. The goofy game *The Order of the Oven Mitt* begins with chocolate cookie pieces, each topped with different candies on a gingerbread checkerboard. Players have fondant avatars, or "squires," and must perform rituals to become knights. [Read more online]



## Sir John Monash, Anzacs honoured in France ...

On high ground adjacent to the small French village of Villers-Bretonneux - and opened on Anzac Day 2018 - at the rear of the Villers-Bretonneux Australian WW1 War Memorial - is the brand new Sir John Monash Centre, a state-of-the-art visitors' gateway to the Western Front. [Read more online]. See also some other more controversial use of the hero's name [at this link].

## Healthy little devils

[BBC News: 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2018] A healthy



group of Tasmanian devils has been discovered in Australia, giving new hope for the survival of the endangered species. They were found by scientists on a conservation expedition in south-west Tasmania. The marsupials' numbers have been slashed because of the spread of an infectious facial cancer. [Read more inline]

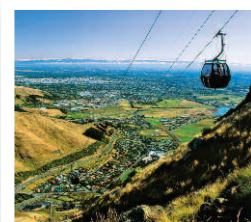
## Whose magic possum? ...

[BBC News: April 2018] The Canadian corporation is suing the Royal Australian Mint over a coin that celebrates the popular Possum Magic children's book series. Their issue is not with the furry marsupial but with Australia's method for printing colour on to coins, for which Canada claims to own the patent. But Australia claims it uses different methods, court documents show. [Read more online]



## Christchurch Gondola ...

Soar suspended above the suburbs as the birds fly beneath your cabin. The Christchurch Gondola whisks you nearly a kilometre to the Crater Rim at the top of the Port Hills with stunning 360° views. [Read more online]



## First inhabitants ...

Over four hundred years before Christopher Columbus and the rest of Europe worried about falling off the edge of the world; Maori people voyaged thousands of miles across the vast unknown Pacific Ocean in small ocean-going canoes and became the first inhabitants of Aotearoa New Zealand. To this day, Maori culture is a core part of New Zealand's national identity. [More online]

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## Nancy Wake

### AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND'S GREATEST WAR HEROINE

Having recently read Peter Fitzsimons's biography I was captivated by the life and personality of Nancy Wake.

- Catherine Bowering.

#### Part II: The White Mouse

(PART I appeared in the April 2018 issue of The Southern Yarn)

"The Germans...aware of a woman's activities, whose description she fitted...code-named her 'the white mouse'...because of her amazing ability to disappear just when they thought they had her cornered." Flattered but now frightened, Nancy and Henri decided that she must leave Marseille via the Pyrenees Mountains into neutral Spain, the same escape route used by more than one thousand people she had helped. Many factors including increased German activity, her detection, detention, vicious interrogation and escape, and terrible weather meant that only on the seventh attempt did she make it. Nancy was then arrested in Spain for illegal entry, an anticipated event but quickly overcome with the British Consul paying her fine. More delays in Gibraltar before boarding a huge convoy sailing to Britain meant that six months had passed since she had kissed Henri goodbye.

In 1943 London springtime she recovered from her ordeal and began preparing for Henri's arrival. There was no way to contact him without the great risk of possibly exposing his Resistance involvement. Desperately wanting to continue an active role against the Nazis she offered her services to the Free French government-in-exile of Charles de Gaulle but was refused...bureaucratic suspicion between the British and French. She received a welcome acceptance from the British on account of her role and relationship with the Allied personnel she had helped escape from France. She was commissioned into the Special Operations Executive (British counterpart of the Free French) in the guise of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry. An intensive guerrilla fighter/spy training preceded her parachuting into France behind enemy lines to begin her liaison with local partisans, the Maquis, Frenchmen who had fled into the bush to fight the Germans.



Nancy Wake

Nancy and her few SOE colleagues were to aid the Maquis in the mission "to hamper and hammer the German Army in whatever way they could to debilitate them" and to prepare them for the future drive to free France. Nancy, the only woman among 3000 plus men, earned their respect and loyalty by her determination, persistence and ability to drink any of them under the table. She lived as they did: sleeping in the open, eating what they hunted and fish and, at her insistence, buying instead of stealing other necessities from the locals; she provided the cash courtesy of the SOE. Evaluating their needs for equipment and supplies, communicating to London via secret radio, meeting, gathering and secreting the parachuted bundles by moonlight, training the men in the use of weapons, making explosives and military tactics such as sabotage and guerrilla warfare—all in a day's work.

In June 1944 Nancy and the Maquis began their part in the Normandy offensive. Hitting their assigned targets (underground telephone cables, railway junctions, factories, roads, and bridges) was designed to slow the movement of thousands of German soldiers from the south of France who were scrambling north to try to forestall the fur-

ther advancement of British, Canadian and American forces. During a German counter offensive that forced a retreat Nancy and company lost their radio and codes. It was Nancy who bicycled the 400 km round trip in 72 hours through German held territory to the nearest point known to have a clandestine radio that could transmit the message of their needs to London via Algeria. Completely exhausted and with the skin on her legs rubbed away she needed several days and the ministrations of the local doctor before she could walk. Never again did she ride a bicycle! But her efforts were successful; the supplies arrived.

Skirmishes continued, some, subtle hit and run attacks on convoys, others, substantial incursions like an attack on a Gestapo HQ not only to take out officers but also to give local people the confidence that the Nazis were no longer in overwhelming control. Alerted by the noise of explosions the local poured out of their homes thinking their town had been liberated and nearly thwarted the escape. During the destruction of an armaments store Nancy was forced to use the lethal force of a karate chop on a guard; only afterward did she discover she suffered a severe gash to her right arm. Recovering, she contemplated how she had become so aggressive. Recollecting the atrocities she had seen inflicted on the Jews in Vienna or innocent local people or escapees in the network, she then understood.

The tide had really turned by late August 1944. At a memorial service in a small town she met an acquaintance who told her the terrible news that Henri was dead. Subsequently she learned that he had been shot after being maliciously tortured for six months by the Gestapo for refusing to give any information about Nancy. Forever

afterward she blamed herself for his death. Returning to their home in Marseille which had been looted by the departing Gestapo, she was consoled to find one memento, her copy of *Anne of Green Gables*. Her work in the Auvergne completed she flew back to London two months later. She spent time in Paris as well, then relocated to Australia. Later in life she moved permanently back to England where she died at the age of 98 in 2011.

Great Britain, France and The US awarded high honours to Nancy, one of the most highly decorated heroes of World War II.

*Nancy was forced to use the lethal force of a karate chop on a guard*



## Green Peace exposes slavery, human trafficking at sea

Green Peace New Zealand Investigators from are behind a global operation that has exposed shocking incidents of human trafficking, slavery and abuse at sea aboard foreign fishing fleets.

Over two years, teams from Greenpeace NZ and Greenpeace East Asia have been investigating grave human rights abuse cases reported on Taiwanese fishing fleets.

Investigator Tim McKinnel, and investigations analyst Stephanie Croft, led the NZ probe. A former police detective, McKinnel spent years campaigning for Teina Pora, that finally saw Pora's convictions for the murder and rape quashed and a multi-million dollar compensation payout.

His subsequent work for Greenpeace NZ, investigating international fishing fleets has now contributed to a major report, *Misery at Sea*. It was launched last month, exposing human trafficking rings, slavery, and murder on the high seas.

McKinnel says what he uncovered on far-away fishing vessels over the past two years of the investigation has chilled him in terms of scale of the misery involved.

"What we discovered on some of these fishing vessels, which often operate on the high seas and don't come into port - sometimes for years at a time - is nothing less than modern-day slavery. We're talking abuse, rape, starvation, and even murder - and it's all for tuna." -SOURCE: Scoop Independent News

## Australia, Indonesia partner for democracy

Can democracy deliver? This is the question currently being asked in Australia and many corners of the globe. If we look at Indonesia's transformative democratic journey - today it is the world's third-largest democracy - the reply can only be resoundingly affirmative yes. More importantly, democracy must deliver.

Yet as democratization has unleashed promising reform in some countries, it has triggered conflict and convulsions in others, inflicting violence, carnage and suffering on the most vulnerable and forcing people in their millions to seek refuge across borders and continents.

Even where we might celebrate more lasting democratic transformation, we are

reminded too that democracy is a process prone to ebbs and flows, progress and regress. A case can be made of recent signs of shifting dynamics - of democracy adrift, or even in retreat.

As with any neighbors, Australia and Indonesia do not always have a common view on issues of mutual concern. The tasks for leaders of both countries is to navigate such challenges with a view to protecting and building the broader relationship. Ultimately, Australia and Indonesia's respective dedication to democracy has made the bilateral relationship stronger, more resilient and robust. But we cannot be complacent. -SOURCE: East Asia Forum; R M Marty Natalegawa Indonesian foreign minister from 2009-2014

## Jail for Australian journos who are irksome

There's almost universal acceptance of the maxim "Journalism is not a crime". One exception is Australia's parliament - it begs to differ and is making it that way.

Legislating for Australia's national security has drifted a long way from the fight against terrorism. Increasingly now, Parliament passes laws that are about suppressing the public's right to know and criminalizing anyone who reveals information the Government would prefer was locked up.

How else can you explain how a draft law could be introduced into the Parliament nowadays that would allow for journalists to be locked up for 20 years for reporting information in the public interest? In the name of keeping the people safe, the Government now wants to keep information hidden from view, and punish the whistleblowers who disclose the information and the journalists who work with them.

In an even more egregious example of legislative overreach, under the guise of combating "espionage" and "foreign interference", journalists, editorial production staff, media outlets' legal advisers and even the office receptionist could be locked up for merely handling that information.

It's an appalling new assault on press freedom. -SOURCE: Forward to Criminalizing Journalism

## NZ PM won't pay welfare for Kiwi kids living in Oz

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has ruled out New Zealand providing help to Kiwi teenagers living rough in Australia after authorities there denied them welfare help.

"At the moment there's no country in the world that funds another government to

make welfare payments," Ardern told RNZ.

"My understanding is that if they've been there 10 years or more that there should be eligibility. But for this group that's been raised we have an independent youth benefit in New Zealand, we have support we can provide them here. If they're on the streets, that tells me they do not have that network of support. We could provide it here. Unfortunately we cannot provide it in Australia." -SOURCE: New Zealand Herald;

## Oz juvenile detention "tighter than Guantánamo Bay"

Jake Roper, 14, was held in isolation at the Don Dale juvenile detention facility for 15 days. The length of time he spent there was just five days shy of the worst disciplinary punishment permitted in the solitary confinement unit for enemy combatants held in Guantánamo Bay.

After the ABC Four Corners graphic investigation into the juvenile detention facility in the Northern Territory, a royal commission has been announced by the Australian prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, to investigate how events there were allowed to occur.

One pressing question will be how Don Dale permitted staff to isolate children for such lengthy periods of time and what policies it had in place to monitor some of the more extreme methods seen used in the vision obtained by Four Corners.

*Murray Burt writes this column to raise sensitivities mainly about the southern Commonwealth nations and to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world. The Commonwealth name and significance is too rarely mentioned in daily news, he says. It should be. Enjoy.*

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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.





Fan-tailed cuckoo, Mt Coolum, Qld (C. Powell)

## birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

### Cuckoo

I very briefly viewed and quickly photographed the fan-tailed cuckoo, above, on a recent visit to Mt Coolum, Queensland. The sighting was so brief that I was only able to identify it once I downloaded the picture to the computer.

Australia has at least a dozen cuckoo species, including the larger and louder channel-billed cuckoo. This is another bird with the nick-name “Storm bird” or “rain crow” (see Koel, in the Feb. '18 Yarn) because of its nocturnal call, often in advance of a storm.

Cuckoos are notorious for parasitizing other birds – using them to do the incubating and child-rearing! As pied currawongs have spread from the mountains and made more of a home for themselves in Sydney's suburbs, so have the channel-billed cuckoos followed, taking advantage of one of their favourite hosts for parental duties. Cuckoo chicks either eject the other eggs or hatch earlier and starve them by demanding all the food.

Several of Australia's cuckoos are also found in New Zealand, especially the shining bronze-cuckoo – the smallest, at only about 6 inches. They spend the winter up in the Solomon Islands.

I haven't seen one yet, but North America's black-billed cuckoo includes southern Manitoba in its range. That is good because they feed on grubs that other birds are not so keen on, for example hairy caterpillars, like the tent caterpillar which can be so damaging to our forest canopies. Their tolerance for the unpalatable hairs is due to the ability to shed their stomach lining and eject it, togeth-



Shining cuckoo (aka shining bronze-cuckoo) [link]



Black-billed cuckoo by Wolfgang Wander (colors adjusted by Skiessi) - [link], CC BY-SA 2.5, [link]

er with the captured hairs, as a pellet. Their diet also includes insects, berries, snails and other birds' eggs. This species is more likely to incubate its own chicks (no currawongs in Manitoba).

### Here is some cuckoo trivia:

*Cuckoo marans* is a breed of chicken known for their very dark brown (“chocolate”) eggs (James Bond's favourite) and good mothering qualities. They originated in the French town of Marans in the mid-1800s.

Although it is not known when or where, the first cuckoo clock was made likely earlier than 1600 – Wikipedia



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