

The Southern Yarn

April/May 2019



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

APRIL

Taste of the Commonwealth Monday, April 15, 2019, 7 to 9 PM

MB Liquor Education Centre,
Grant Park Shopping Centre
Cost: \$40 per person

The Royal Commonwealth Society invites DUCW members to learn all about some of the wines, beers, and liquors that are made in the Commonwealth countries. Product Ambassador Aaron Alblas, who regularly is on the cooking show sponsored by MLLC on CTV Saturdays pairing wines with the wonderful recipes being prepared, will be our host. He will find some of the products made in the various countries of the Commonwealth, tell us about them and let us sip and sample. It has always been a fun evening. Contact Betsy Burt by 12th April if you plan to attend: 204-488-0167 or betsyburt@mts.net

ANZAC Day Saturday 27th April 2019, 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. There will be a LEGAL game or two of Two-up – and prizes! And don't forget – the Bar will be open.



DUCW members joined the Royal Commonwealth Society on March 13th for an appropriately regal reception at Government House, hosted by Lt. Gov. Janice Filmon.



Commonwealth Day Events

Thirteen members of the DUCW attended the Commonwealth Day reception at Government House on Wednesday March 13. Invited by Murray and Betsy Burt, President and Secretary of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Manitoba Branch, and welcomed by Her Honour Lieutenant Governor Janice Filmon, it was a wonderful night that included mingling, beverages, speeches, and a light supper. There was also an interfaith evening service at The Cathedral Church of Saint John, presided by Bishop Right Rev Geoff Woodcroft, and Murray Burt read the Queen's Commonwealth address and briefly reviewed the status of the Commonwealth in the past year. These annual events remind us of our ties to each other and the importance of keeping the Commonwealth going here and around the world.



Afternoon Tea at High Tea Bakery

Thanks again for the extra treats that welcomed members who came to enjoy the ambience and hospitality at High Tea Bakery – keep it up and this is sure to become a regular on the DUCW calendar.

Brunch at Miss Browns

A great turnout for some really great food! Big thanks to everyone who joined in the fun and the conversation, and to our hosts Jenny and Steve and staff for letting us take over the front of their fabulous restaurant for a few hours.



Deb Richards (left) just back from 40+ years in QLD, chats with Toby Elson and Tiernan over breakfast at Miss Browns.



online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



An unnamed man stopped and shared this poem for those grieving in Christchurch:

*Terrorism has no colour
 Terrorism has no ethnicity
 Terrorism has no one belief
 The only thing all terrorism shares is hatred
 Hatred for all those things that make our world beautiful
 If a rainbow was only one colour,
 would you still appreciate it?
 If everything smelt the same, would you still go out of your way to smell a rose?
 If every sound had the same tone, would you still listen to music?
 You see, the thing that makes the world a beautiful place is the thing that makes us human: difference
 And this is especially true for the place we call home
 Our country is diverse
 Diverse in our land, diverse in our culture
 And our diversity is what makes our country beautiful
 Don't let hatred take over your heart just because things are different
 Look after each other, family*

[Watch the video online]



president's ramblings

Peter Munn



DINKS and Dogs

No, for once when you see Dogs in my report, it's not the Footscray (oops, Western) Bulldogs, it's the canine variety I'm talking about.

As written about before, our younger son Tyler has lived in Toronto for about 8 years, and in fact announced his engagement to the lovely Hannah a few weeks back. About 6 months ago, they had decided to get a dog, and over time they decided on a rescue greyhound. I knew little about the greyhound breed, apart from the fact that I

went to the greyhound races at the local dog track in Melbourne when I was younger, bet and lost on them, and noticed that they were a lean, quick animal. So I wondered about them getting a greyhound for a pet, expecting that they would need to exercise the dog relentlessly. But that was not the case, as greyhounds enjoy sleeping. A lot. And being 'Dual Income, No Kids,' the dog is spoiled. He has a dog walker for exercise during the day, a dog trainer for what I am not quite sure of, and often goes to Doggy Daycare. But he is a food thief, and easily nabs any food left unattended. Although he has found a good home, maybe the trainer will help with the food theft.

Enjoy the Spring and Summer,
Peter



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80 years ago



George VI and Elizabeth in Winnipeg. Both arrived in the city on the King's official birthday in Canada!

Royal Visit 1939

The 1939 royal tour by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth was the first time a reigning Canadian monarch had stepped foot in this country. The King and Queen spent a month in Canada, touring the country from 17 May to 15 June (excluding four days in the United States from 8 to 11 June). They crossed the country twice in a blue and silver royal train that became the most recognizable symbol of the tour. The tour began in Québec City when the royal couple arrived on the Canadian Pacific liner *Empress of Australia* escorted by two destroyers and two cruisers of the Royal Canadian Navy. Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King formally welcomed the couple with a speech that included the words, "Today as never before the throne has become the centre of our national life."

The westbound journey included stops in Trois-Rivières, Montréal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Banff, Vancouver and Victoria – as well as numerous small towns and villages. The train then traveled east, stopping, among other places, in Jasper, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Sudbury, Guelph, Kitchener, Windsor, Hamilton, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. After the visit to the United States, the royal couple returned to Canada and continued their tour through Rivière-du-Loup, Fredericton, Saint John, Moncton and Charlottetown, before

departing by ship from Halifax. Before returning to Britain, the royal couple sailed to St. John's, capital of the separate Dominion of Newfoundland at the time. [Read more online, and also some rare footage].

Aviatrix Jean Batten



Eighty two years ago, New Zealand aviatrix **Jean Gardner Batten**, CBE, OSC, broke a world record with the first solo flight from England to New Zealand. It took 11 days for her to fly the 22,891 km for the record-breaking trip. Born in Rotorua, she became the best-known New Zealander of the 1930s, internationally, by making a number of record-breaking solo flights across the world. She made the first-ever solo flight from England to New Zealand in 1936. In 2017, her heroic solo journey and status as New Zealand's greatest aviator was celebrated by Air New Zealand with an all-female flight crew from London all the way to Auckland. Way to fly, Jean!



Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum executive director Stephen Hayter has been with the museum for 20 years. (Tim Smith/The Brandon Sun)

Hayter piloting museum for two decades

[*Bud Robertson, The Brandon Sun: 02/9/2019*] During the Second World War, aircrew personnel from Australia, New Zealand, England, and Canada were all trained under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, which operated bases across the country, including Brandon. The Brandon museum is the only one dedicated to telling the story.

Stephen Hayter learned his profession in the museum management and curatorship program at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough, Ont. [More online].

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Lost and Found

[Nick Miller, SMH: Jan. 25, 2019]



London: Against the odds, and just in time for Australia Day, M a t t h e w Flinders has been found. The body of the famous British explorer who helped name and was the first to circumnavigate Australia was thought lost when the cemetery he was buried in

205 years ago became a public park behind London's Euston railway station. But a huge archaeological dig, part of preparations for a \$100 billion rail project, has defied predictions and identified Flinders' remains among thousands to be removed from the site.

The discovery has been described as Australia's version of the recent rediscovery of Richard III, and experts hope Flinders' skeleton will yield new insights into his life and work. [More online]



Saving the Bilby

[Ann Jones, ABC, Apr. 7, 2019] In the middle of Western Australia in a special restricted zone, the Birriburu Indigenous rangers are searching for traces of bilby. They fan out over set points in the landscape, searching for anything that will give a clue as to where the nocturnal inhabitants are hiding. The greater bilby, known here as muntarngarku, is a wonderfully lanky little fluffball – it has a long snout and ears and looks a bit like a cross between a bandicoot and a hare. It used to be found over 70 per cent of Australia, but now it's restricted to 15 per cent. [More online]



A World of Their Own

[Jennifer Feller, ABC, Apr. 8, 2019] In 1968, four clean-cut young Australians were at the top of the pops. Three men in suits and a petite woman in a homemade dress with ribbons in her hair, singing lilting folksy harmonies amid the rock counterculture. During the four years they recorded, the quartet blazed an international trail with their first three singles reaching number one. They were The Seekers.

Georgy Girl, from the film of the same name, smashed through the singles charts to number one in the US and was nominated for an Academy Award for best original song. Their songs live on in popular culture and in the songs mothers sing to their children, a soundtrack to the lives of so many Australians. [More online]



Crown of thorns starfish.

Love finds a way ...

[University of Queensland research] The power of attraction is an unlikely ally in saving the Great Barrier Reef from the destructive scourge of its fiercest enemy, the crown-of-thorns starfish, and could play a major role in helping to save corals reefs and other marine environments globally.

Husband-and-wife UQ researchers Professor Bernard Degnan and Associate Professor Sandie Degnan of UQ's Faculty of Science found that the coral-eating starfish gather en masse when mating due to pheromones – a scent the researchers have decoded – so the prickly pests can be lured together for capture. [More online]



Bluey the cattle dog has won parents over

[Kellie Scott ABC Life: Mar. 26, 2019] People often say there isn't a handbook for parenting, but if there was, it would likely list Bluey as essential viewing. Kids love it, but the Brisbane-based animation has also caught the attention of parents for being a breath of fresh Aussie air.

The ABC KIDS' show follows the lives of blue heeler pup Bluey and her family (yes, Bluey is a gal – an "accidental" dig at naming conventions that is just one of the cool things about the show) and it features different dog breeds throughout.

I'm not a mum but I just quietly ended up binge-watching four episodes while researching this story.

(If it's also news to you, do yourself a favour and go laugh your way through a seven-minute ep now.)

It's just about to drop new episodes, so we wanted to find out: why are so many people addicted to a dog cartoon and are kids getting as much out of it as adults do? [More online]

Renewing Australian Passports

The Australian High Commission is starting to plan their trips west for passport applications and renewals this year. So far, only Alberta is in the works in late summer (dates to be announced), but if enough people in Manitoba want to take advantage of this, there might be a trip here before or after Edmonton/Calgary.

In the meantime, "If any Australian citizens need to renew/apply for a passport sooner, they should book an appointment at one AHC's regular offices (Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver). Clients can monitor our webpage and/or follow the Australian High Commission on social media, using the links below, to keep informed of any upcoming programs."

Online: [Web site] [Facebook] [Twitter]

Questions: otwa.passports@dfat.gov.au

Info on passport applications: [Link]

And we will share any posts from the AHC on the DUCW's Facebook page and website.



Royal visit

Prince William will visit New Zealand in April to honour the victims of the Christchurch mosques terror attack.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern confirmed the Duke of Cambridge would visit New Zealand in late April.

Prince William will represent the Queen during the visit.

“I am mindful that the trauma in Christchurch will last long after the National Remembrance Service this week,” Ardern said.

“I’m sure all New Zealanders but especially the Muslim community of Christchurch will appreciate seeing the compassion and support, that has been so tangibly demonstrated since the attack, continue into the future.

“Prince William has a strong connection with the people of Canterbury since his visits here following the Christchurch earthquakes. [More online]



Kākāpō hitting record numbers

[NZ Herald; 28 March, 2019] Record numbers of kākāpō chicks are entering a new era of hope for the threatened species with a hugely successful breeding season.

Breeding numbers are encouragingly high so far – 249 eggs have been laid, 76 have hatched and 71 live chicks are carrying the hopes of a renewed generation of kākāpō. The previous record, in 2016, was 47 chicks hatched and 33 fledged.

Some chicks inevitably fall foul of sickness, weather, accidents and other unpreventable incidents, as when one of the breeding sites flooded previously, taking the lives of three precious chicks.

This year, Dr Andrew Digby, science advisor for kākāpō and takahē at the Department of Conservation (DOC), says he had hoped to have over 50 chicks fledged. That goal has now been surpassed, which is a tribute to the technology and dedication of the DOC recovery team, Meridian Energy support, and a programme which touches every aspect of kākāpō life – including intricate monitoring of their breeding habits. [More online]



That sucks

An apple orchard out the back of Puketapu has a new worker, one which could help the industry’s chronic seasonal labour shortage in the long term.

The world’s first robotic apple harvester has been set up at a T&G Global orchard in Hawke’s Bay.

It looks less like *Star Wars’* C-3PO and more like a tractor, and makes a sound similar to a rooster, but it could be a game changer for apple growers, helping ease labour constraints the industry currently experiences. It uses vacuum suction to remove the ripe apples.

The robot, which currently is nameless, was designed by American-based company Abundant Robotics. [More online]

BushYarn

Road Directions

Completely bushwacked on an outback road somewhere past Woop Woop, a tourist slammed on the brakes and pulled his car over to stop beside a swaggie who was trudging along in the scorching midday sun.

‘I say,’ called the driver, ‘can you give me the directions to the next town?’

‘Yeah,’ replied the swaggie, as he wiped a flow of grimy sweat from his brow. ‘You turn right at the next cross-road, travel about ten miles until you spot a big shed, turn right again until you see a big gum tree, then turn right

again until you come to a train line, then turn right.’

An hour later, the same car came bouncing down the same road and the car once again pulled over to where the swaggie was seated, resting under a gum tree.

‘I never could follow directions,’ said the tourist. ‘Could you do me a big favour and travel with me so you could point out the way?’

‘Certainly,’ said the swaggie, climbing in. ‘Just drive straight ahead. You’re lucky mate, sometimes I send fellows like you around the track about three or four times before they offer me a lift!’

Farewell, Ruth Thomas

DUCW member Ruth Thomas passed away on March 19, 2019. She was 97 years old and died peacefully in her sleep. Ruth and husband Peter were members of the Club from the very beginning, and as son Ralph said, “Thank you for all the fun they had as club members over the years.” Those of us who knew them still remember Ruth and Peter as active members who enthusiastically participated in events and activities. Both will be fondly remembered for their humour and friendship. Rest easy, Ruth [more online].



Soldiers, thieves, Māori warriors: the NZ convicts sent to Australia

[*The Conversation*: Kristyn Harman, Senior Lecturer in History, University of Tasmania: 24th Oct., 2017]

Soon after it became a British colony, New Zealand began shipping the worst of its offenders across the Tasman Sea. Between 1843 and 1853, an eclectic mix of more than 110 soldiers, sailors, Māori, civilians and convict absconders from the Australian penal colonies were transported from New Zealand to Van Diemen's Land.

This little-known chapter of history happened for several reasons. The colonists wanted to cleanse their land of thieves, vagrants and murderers and deal with Māori opposition to colonisation. Transporting fighting men like Hōhepa Te Umuroa, Te Kūmete, Te Waretiti, Matiu Tikiahi and Te Rāhui for life to Van Diemen's Land was meant to subdue Māori resistance.

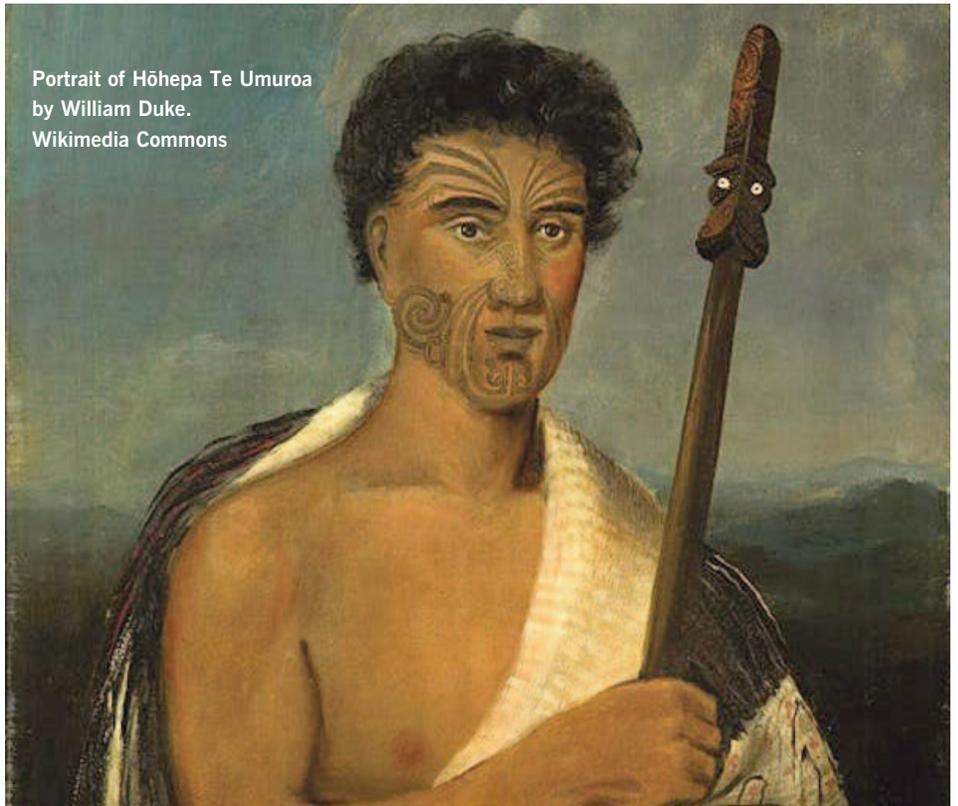
Transportation was also used to punish redcoats (the British soldiers sent to guard the colony and fight opposing Māori) who deserted their regiments or otherwise misbehaved. Some soldiers were so terrified of Māori warriors that they took off when faced with the enemy.

Early colonial New Zealand had no room for reprobates. Idealised as a new sort of colony for gentlefolk and free labourers, New Zealanders aspired towards creating a utopia by brutally suppressing challenges to that dream. On 4 November 1841, the colony's first governor, William Hobson, named Van Diemen's Land as the site to which its prisoners would be sent. The first boatload arrived in Hobart in 1843 and included William Phelps Pickering, one of the few white-collar criminals transported across the Tasman. Pickering later lived as a gentleman after returning home.

In 1840s Van Diemen's Land, convict labourers were sent to probation stations before being hired out. Many men transported from New Zealand were sent down the Tasman Peninsula, where labourers were needed at the time.

Ironically, those eventually allocated to masters or mistresses in larger centres like Hobart or Launceston would have enjoyed more developed living conditions than New Zealand's fledgling townships. In those days, Auckland's main street was rather muddy.

Portrait of Hōhepa Te Umuroa
by William Duke.
Wikimedia Commons



Early colonial buildings were often constructed by Māori from local materials.

At least 51 redcoats were shipped to the penal island. Some committed crimes after being discharged from the military, but many faced charges related to desertion. Four of the six soldier convicts who arrived Van Diemen's Land in June 1847 were court-martialled in Auckland the previous winter for "deserting in the vicinity of hostile natives".

As Irish soldier convict Michael Tobin explained, the deserters had been returned to the colonists by "friendly natives"; that is, Māori who were loyal to the Crown during the New Zealand Wars. Perhaps as a form of insurance, Tobin had also struck Captain Armstrong, his superior. Several other soldiers also used violence against a superior - it was bound to ensure a sentence of transportation, removing them from the theatre of war.

Irish Catholic soldier Richard Shea, for instance, was a private in the 99th Regiment who used his firelock to strike his lieutenant while on parade. This earned him a passage on the *Castor* to Van Diemen's Land. His three military companions on the vessel, William Lane, George Morris and John Bailey, all claimed to have been taken by Māori north of Auckland and kept prisoner for four months. But surviving records reveal that their military overlords thought that the three had instead deserted to join the ranks of a rebel chief.

Māori fighters

In 1846, NZ governor George Grey proclaimed martial law across the Wellington region. When several Māori fighters were eventually captured and handed over to colonists by the Crown's Indigenous allies, they were tried by court martial at Porirua, north of Wellington.

After being found guilty of charges that included being in open rebellion against Queen and country, five were sentenced to transportation for life in Van Diemen's Land. The traditionally-clothed Māori attracted a lot of attention in Hobart, where colonists loudly disapproved of their New Zealand neighbours' treatment of Indigenous people. This is ironic given the Tasmanians' own near-genocidal war against Aboriginal people.

Grey had wanted the Māori warriors sent to Norfolk Island or Port Arthur and hoped they would write letters to their allies at home describing how harshly they were being treated. Instead, they were initially held in Hobart, where they were visited by media and other well-wishers.

Hobartians were worried that the Māori could become contaminated through contact with other convicts. Arrangements were made to send them to Maria Island off the island's east coast, where they could live separately from the other convicts. [More online]



Aus finance join climate issues

The big four Australian banks, superfunds, and insurance companies are taking climate change into their own hands by signing onto an initiative that aims to realign the sector to support better social, environmental and economic outcomes for the country.

Launched on Wednesday, The Australian Sustainable Finance Initiative brings together leaders and executives from major banks, insurance companies, super funds, financial sector peak bodies, civil society groups and academia.

The initiative includes a steering group, tasked with developing a plan on how the finance sector can help deliver international climate agreements, and transition to a more sustainable and resilient economy.

Co-chair of the initiative and IAG group executive Jacki Johnson, said the next decade was critical for managing climate change and other risks, and the finance sector needed to play a part in that.

"Australia has made a number of commitments to international targets. Achieving these goals extends beyond social or environmental objectives - it's an economic and financial necessity," Johnson said.

"Our economy simply cannot prosper in an environment of ever-increasing severe weather events and the subsequent broader impacts these will have."

The group will deliver a roadmap next year, outlining recommendations for the sector such as mobilising capital to assist with climate goals, embedding sustainability, climate and human rights considerations into financial markets and products, and delivering a financial system that meets consumer demand around sustainability.

Kiwi gun lovers balk at ban

Gun owners in New Zealand are being urged by those in the business to sign a petition to ensure law-abiding gun owners are not unduly punished by the Government's proposed ban on military-style semi-automatic (MSSA) guns.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced a ban on MSSAs and assault rifles last week, after the terrorist attack in Christchurch. Legislation is expected to be introduced on Tuesday and passed as an urgency. It has support across the political spectrum.

The legislation is expected to become law by April 11. There will be a truncated select committee process to hear public submissions. The Government is also working on the details of a buy-back scheme, estimated to cost up to \$200 million.

In response, Gun City emailed its subscribers today and urged them to sign a petition to Parliament.

The petition, in the name of Hayden Livingstone, started on last week and had 10,786 signatures by 5pm on Friday.

The petition requested "an in-depth public consultation period on changes to New Zealand firearms legislation, to ensure effective firearms legislation reform that does not unduly punish law-abiding firearms owners while maintaining assurances of public safety".

It called the Government's gun law reforms "ill-advised, partly due to the speed at which they have been implemented and also due to (understandable) emotionally driven public pressure".

The Gun City email, obtained by the NZ Herald, asked for more information on the Government's proposed buy-back scheme, including whether it would compensate for gun accessories and ammunition, lost income or employment, booked travel to events to use MSSAs, or losses from investment in shooting facilities.

It also called for an independent inquiry into how the gunman in the Christchurch shootings obtained a firearms licence.

"The reasons and activities for which we own guns vary. Let's stand united as Firearms Licence holders rather than dividing into different groups, in the hope that other shooting disciplines will not be affected," the email said. *SOURCE: The New Zealand Herald*

Reviewing NZ women's pay rise

New research by the New Zealand Work Research Institute at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) and the Human Rights Commission has for the first time revealed the challenges and advantages of New Zealand's largest pay increase for women. "

The Value of Care - evaluating the impact of the 2017 pay equity settlement of the aged residential, home and community and disability sectors" examines the impact of the \$2 billion pay equity settlement, which increased pay for 55,000 workers in a female dominated workforce who had largely been paid the minimum wage.

Nearly 70 staff, including both managers and care and support workers, across the aged care, home and community care and

disability support sectors spoke to lead researchers Associate Professor Katherine Ravenswood and Dr Julie Douglas about the impact of the pay equity settlement.

"This research is world leading. It is especially rare for a female-dominated sector to receive a large pay rise. Now, for the first time we can understand the impact of paying carers a living wage," says the Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Saunoamaali'i Dr Karanina Sumeo.-*SOURCE Scoop Politics*

Fiji: human rights still lagging

Amnesty International says Fiji's leaders are ignoring their appeals to tackle what they call, "the country's severe human rights failings." This is despite Fiji's accession to vice-presidency of the UN Human Rights Council.

Amnesty's Pacific researcher says their six-point human rights agenda was put forward ahead of last November's election to highlight priority areas for an incoming government's attention. Roshika Deo says Amnesty's current review shows none have been implemented. -*SOURCE Radio NZ*

Gender issues in Solomons

The list of things women shouldn't do according to Solomon Islands' culture is long: no wearing shorts, no lingering eye contact with men, no sitting near your brothers and no speaking up, among them.

The rules are nuanced and vary by province and tribe. But overall, cultural predispositions across the country leave women without the same level of respect and representation as men.

The Pacific region has the lowest number of women parliamentarians in the world. In Solomon Islands, one Member of Parliament out of 50 is a woman, and a total of four women have served as MPs in the history of the country. -*SOURCE: Solomon Times*

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Read more most issues from Commonwealth Corner on page nine 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.



Male snow bunting [Photo: United States Fish and Wildlife Service]

Source: Wikipedia

Snow Bunting

I often see flocks of little, mostly-white birds – out in snow-covered fields or flying up from the roadside – when I’m driving out in the country during winter. I have never been able to get a good close-up of them, so always wondered what they are – so hardy to be out and about at -20C and colder.

Well, I am now certain that they are snow buntings, since nothing else fits the description and behaviour. *The Lone Pine Field Guide to Manitoba Birds* confirms it as far as I’m concerned. They are depicted as very sparrow-like, except they are whiter. Apparently they are even more white in the summer, so the theory is that the darker plumage in winter helps the absorption of extra heat on clear days.

Their claim to fame is that they are the northernmost passerine – breeding in the Arctic and only migrating as far as southern Canada/northern USA in the winter. They are also found in northern Germany, Poland and Ukraine as well as central and east Asia.

Anyway, it is always a pleasure to see them – adding life to the snowy landscape.

Here is a poem by someone else who appreciates them:

Northern whisper

by Marie-Pier Laplante

Morning light
Glowing sight
Bracing air
My head is clear

Rolling rattle
Windy battle
In the apple tree
You wait for me

Snow buntings
Joyful singing
In the dead of winter
You are my spring

Shivering hands
All wounds open
The wind blows hard
But my mind is calm

White flutter
Northern whisper
Can you feel this warmth
Coming from the frozen ground?

Snow buntings
Joyful singing
In the dead of winter
You are my spring

Snow buntings
Covering the field
In the dead of winter
A sort of relief

Here comes April
Restless April
Moving buntings
To the Arctic somewhere
Where it all begins

[Link]



Snow buntings feeding [Photo: Nat Capitanio]



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