

# The Southern Yarn

June/July 2019

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

## downundercalendar

### JULY

#### *Annual All-Age Pool Party* *Sunday 14th July, 3 pm*

at Jason and Lynley Davidson's

57 D'Arcy Drive, Winnipeg

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dessert, etc. Call Lynley at **204-275-7631** or

**204-269-1510** to let her know you're coming.

### AUGUST

#### *Golf Tournament* *Saturday 24th August*

at The Players Course, off Inkster Blvd.

SOMETHING NEW! Attention all DUCW members who have ever played golf. On Saturday August 24, we are having a **different golf day than usual**. Our small, friendly tournament will be based on "Texas Scramble" rules, where every group is a team, and everyone in the group plays every shot, but from the position where the best ball of the group has landed. So if you don't make your best shot, just pick up your ball and walk over and shoot from where the best shot of the group landed. No stress, all fun, and you are part of a team. To make the game as even as possible, we will allocate the teams based on everyone's skill level, with the aim of having an even amount of different skill levels on each team. with no team being "stacked". This Texas scramble will be for 9 holes, starting at 1pm at The Players Course just off Inkster Boulevard, 1/2 km west of Route 90, official address is 2695 Park Royale Way. Some folks like to play 18 holes, so there will be a stroke play mini tournament available prior to the Texas Scramble, starting at 11am. Please call early, to let me know your intentions,

– Peter Munn **204 237-1805**.

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

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## A format for those new to golf

The Texas Scramble is one of the most popular tournament formats in golf.

Frequently used in informal events and even pro golf tournaments, the Texas Scramble offers numerous formats for fun-loving golfers and those who have not been out on the links for years.

All offer a combination of strategy, camaraderie, skill, and heartbreak. All are fun if played in the right spirit. The format became widely known as the Texas Scramble as it flourished in Texas during the Depression and attained great popularity in Las Vegas in the 1950s. It has become a staple of charity events and pro-am tournaments and was played a lot on the LPGA tour.

The teams must win both local and regional elimination tournaments to qualify for the national event.

### Basic Format

The Texas Scramble's basic format is simple and straightforward. Each player hits a tee shot. The best ball, as determined by the captain, is selected for the second shot. Each member of the team hits his or her shot from that spot. The process continues until the hole is played out. Over the years several variations of this format have evolved.

Playing a Texas Scramble is a great way to spend a nice day on the course and a good way of generating money for a charity, starting the golf season off, or finishing league play. [More online]

We look forward to seeing a lot of our DUCW members out for this annual gathering, with special encouragement to those who have not joined us in the past, and even ones who are quite new to golf. It's all fun!

## Our special remembrance

The highlight of the year's events for the Down Under Club is the annual remembrance of Anzac Day, and the gathering on Saturday, April 27 was no exception. The event consisted of the formal parade, followed by a potluck dinner and social evening.

The Colour Party this year was marched on by Charlie Powell, with Peter Debenham and Terry Roberts as flag-bearers. Over 30 members attended, including several members of the General Monash Legion. The Club President, Peter Munn, was host for the

evening and Padre Brian Flower officiated at the parade. The wreath was laid at the cenotaph by Peter Munn (on behalf of the Down Under Club of Winnipeg). Special thanks to Gordon Keatch for his reading of the Requiem and Rick Sellwood on the trumpet. Thanks also to the many folk who provided delicious dishes for the meal following and to the helpers who stepped up to set out the meal and to assist with cleanup afterwards. Again, our keen junior members called the Two-up games.

online



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## editorially yours

Charlie Powell



I had the privilege to be invited to join a small team and visit Kazakhstan for a week in April. It was a work project and the five of us were very well looked after by our generous hosts. On our return to Almaty from the job, they took a detour to show us **Charyn Canyon**. A local guide drove us by Jeep down the rocky winding track to the bottom – and guess what – there were two young Aussie cyclists washing their bikes in the cool rushing stream! Ben and Aaron from Sydney were part way through completing the 10,000 km Silk Road – they had already come through the Chinese leg! Talk about fit! The last I saw them they had already reached the top as we drove back up!

More recently, Judy and I took a long road trip to Halifax, south to Portland, Maine, and home through the US. It covered the long weekend for Memorial Day – “an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.” – very similar to our ANZAC Day (except for the summer part). Americans certainly like to display their flag – proudly waving from many homes, businesses and town streets. During our week there, all the ones at government buildings remained at half-mast, no doubt also due to the D-Day 75th anniversary.

Thanks this month to Jenny, Judy, Ed, Malcolm, Terry, Yvonne, Murray, Peter and our advertizers. And special thanks to Gordon and Norm who get the hard-copies mailed out!

Whatever makes your summer more relaxing – reading, sewing, coffee, bird-watching – we cover it all ... enjoy!

## president's ramblings

Peter Munn



For those of you who follow this column religiously, anxiously awaiting the arrival of each edition, I can report that I have now met the greyhound that was featured in my last column. Tallest dog I had ever seen to that date, rock hard leg and shoulder muscles (he was still actively racing 5 months ago) that a red kangaroo would be proud of.

Margaret and I were in Toronto for 10 days in mid-May, visiting with Tyler and Hannah, attending their engagement shindig, and meeting the future in-laws,

who are from Ontario, but working now in New York. Very nice people. Had a great time in Toronto, which I find very similar to Melbourne in a lot of ways. The one striking thing about Toronto now is the extent of building in the city and near city areas, mainly the amount and size of the apartment buildings being constructed. Any spare 150 foot wide property, or smaller, is being populated by 20 to 40 story apartment/condo blocks. It seems like every block has an apartment building under construction.

We did a lot of walking around, visited High Park with a multitude of blossoming cherry trees, a gift from Japan. Also went to the St. Lawrence market, with incredible fish and cheese selections at many stores. If you wish, you can select from 12 varieties of

oysters from around Canada and the world. I even picked up my annual dose of culture shock at the Royal Ontario Museum, which deserved much more time than the 4 hours we spent at just a few selected exhibits.

Enjoy the Summer,

Peter



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## 75 years ago

The 1944 Battle of Normandy – from the D-Day landings on 6 June through to the encirclement of the German army at Falaise on 21 August – was one of the pivotal events of the Second World War and the scene of some of Canada's greatest feats of arms. Canadian sailors, soldiers and airmen played a critical role in the Allied invasion of Normandy, also called Operation Overlord, beginning the bloody campaign to liberate Western Europe from Nazi

occupation. Nearly 150,000 Allied troops landed or parachuted into the invasion area on D-Day, including 14,000 Canadians at Juno Beach. The Royal Canadian Navy contributed 110 ships and 10,000 sailors and the RCAF contributed 15 fighter and fighter-bomber squadrons to the assault. Total Allied casualties on D-Day reached more than 10,000, including 1,074 Canadians, of whom 359 were killed. By the end of the Battle of Normandy, the Allies had suffered 209,000 casualties, including more than 18,700 Canadians. Over 5,000 Canadian soldiers died. [Link]

Australia, with the great bulk of its forces fighting Japan in the south-west Pacific, took a relatively small part in the operation, but the invasion force included up to about 3,000 Australians.

About a dozen Australian soldiers were attached to British army formations, learning the ropes in preparation for amphibious operations in the Pacific later in the war. Some 500 Australian sailors served in dozens of Royal Navy warships, from battle-ships and corvettes down to motor torpedo boats and landing craft. Several Australians commanded flotillas of tank-landing ships, while others piloted landing craft carrying British and Canadian infantry onto the beaches.



Photographer Robert Capa's famous image of American troops on Omaha Beach during the Normandy D-Day landings on 6 June 1944

Australia's main contribution was in the air. Between 2,000 and 2,500 Australian airmen served in dozens of RAF and ten RAAF squadrons of all kinds. Australian aircrew served in transport and glider-towing squadrons which carried airborne troops, fighter-bombers and fighters operating directly over the beach-head, and many in heavy bomber squadrons which dropped thousands of tons of bombs in support of the landings. Coastal Command squadrons operated far from the beaches of Normandy, protecting the Channel crossings from German naval forces.

Fourteen Australians were killed on D-Day (two RAN and 12 RAAF). [Link]

While no New Zealand military units landed on the beaches of Normandy, individual New Zealanders did. Brigadier James Hargest, New Zealand's official observer with the Allied forces, went ashore with the British 50th Division on D-Day, and radar specialist Ned Hitchcock landed amidst the carnage on Omaha Beach the following day. Other New Zealanders like Jack Ingham were on the ships and planes that carried troops to France on 6 June – D-Day – and in the months that followed. These young men served with the Royal Air Force (RAF), Royal Navy (RN) or Merchant

Navy. Some were in charge of landing craft, vessels that carried troops and tanks to the invasion. Others were seamen or officers on battleships, destroyers or hospital ships.

New Zealanders in the RAF were among the crews of Dakotas and gliders, which carried airborne troops. Other New Zealanders flew in fighters and bombers, sent out on operations in support of the landings. Far from home, these men were witnesses to one of the decisive events in the Second World War. [Link]

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## Swamphens have learnt how to make a meal of cane toads ...



[AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC | APRIL 4, 2019  
Photo Credit – Greg Bourke]

Cane toads were introduced from Hawaii to Australia in 1935 to eat scarab beetles, which had become a menace for the Australian sugarcane industry. Populations quickly grew out of control and soon

reached plague proportions.

The toads pose a risk to Australia's native wildlife as they secrete a poison from their skin that's toxic.

But when it comes to some of our birds, they seem to have learnt how to eat toads by avoiding the most toxic parts.

"At first I was not sure that the swamphen was aware of its prey but it quickly became clear that it knew exactly what to do to avoid the poison glands," says Greg. "It positioned the toad carefully and held it tight while feeding from the underside. It was a very deliberate approach!" [Read more online]



## Whisky better Vodka!

[Business News Australia: Matt Ogg, 7 Dec., 2018] "From the family sheep's milk farm south of Hobart, Ryan Hartshorn has built a spirit producer that's the envy of the world. Hartshorn Distillery won top honours in the World Vodka Awards 2018 in London, while its gins are held in high regard. But a business cannot thrive on accolades alone. Through a creative "full circle" approach to ingredients, the Hartshorn's Grandvieve

Farm has lifted its cheese game while two luxury products mix a potent tourism cocktail." With a business degree, a bench-scale still and some scientific assistance, Ryan now converts the cheese whey (waste) into the value-added Vodka. [Read more online]



## Oops! ...

[The Guardian: 46 million of Australia's new \$50 notes have been printed with a typo, the Reserve Bank has confirmed. The "new and improved" \$50 banknote was rolled out in October last year, with a host of new technologies designed to improve accessibility and prevent counterfeiting.

But the yellow note also contains a typo that misspells the word "responsibility". The note features the Indigenous writer and inventor David Unaipon on one side, and Edith Cowan, Australia's first female member of parliament, on the other – as it has since 1995. [Read more online]

# newszealand

various sources, see web links in online edition



## Just 18 were known to exist by 1977

[BBC, 17th April, 2019] Kakapos - the world's fattest species of parrot - have had their most successful breeding season on record, according to New Zealand's Department of Conservation (DOC).

The flightless, nocturnal parrots were once one of the country's most common birds, but only 147 adults are left.

This year, 76 chicks have been hatched under the DOC's conservation scheme, with

60 expected to reach adulthood. The new batch is more than double that of the last breeding season in 2016.

Kakapos only breed every two to four years when their favourite fruit grows in New Zealand's Rimu trees - the period is known as a "mast year". Their numbers have also been curbed by hunting, deforestation, and predators like stoats which were introduced by European settlers. [Read more online]



## A gouda cheese than the others

[NZ Herald: Tom Rowland, 7 June, 2019] A gouda cheese made by a Waikato family-owned cheese company took the top honours at the annual New Zealand Champions of Cheese Awards.

Meyer Cheese Goats Milk Gouda was named Countdown Champion of Champion at the cheese awards in Hamilton, a win that general manager of Meyer Cheese, Miel Meyer, said the family was extremely happy about.

"It was just another incredible feeling for us to come out with the award," Miel said.

"It was my brother Geert who took out the top award. I don't tend to touch cheese too much these days after working with it for so long. I just do this stuff and promote it so full credit to the rest of the family." [Read more]

## 77 years ago ...

[Newshub: Tony Wright, 2 Nov., 2017] New Zealand played a pivotal role in defeating Nazi Germany in a land battle for the first time, changing the outcome of World War II.

And if you're familiar with Kiwi Taika Waititi's cult film Boy, you'll unwittingly know this battle's name already - El Alamein.

The engagement in North Africa, known as the Second Battle of El Alamein, occurred in the deserts of Egypt in 1942, pitting the Axis forces of Nazi Germany and Italy against Britain and its allies, which included New Zealand.

"If the British had lost that battle, it would have set back the war effort consider-

ably, there was already considerable doubt about whether the Allies could actually beat a German army in the field,” Military historian Glyn Harper told Newshub.

The New Zealanders were an elite fighting force within the British Army and Professor Harper says the Germans were especially wary of them.

“The 2nd New Zealand Division was identified by the Germans as the best formation within the British Eighth Army.” German commander Erwin Rommel was even quoted as saying: “If I had to take hell, I would use the Australians to take it and the New Zealanders to hold it.

“If I’d had one division of Mori, I would have taken the canal in a week. If I’d had three, I’d have taken Baghdad.”

The Kiwis played a leading role in the battle when it was launched in late October, but received heavy casualties, as the attack stalled.

“The New Zealanders certainly suffered and that was really down to scraping the bottom of the barrel here, because they received no reinforcements at all in 1942,” says Professor Harper. Read more: <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2017/11/75-years-since-new-zealand-handed-nazi-germany-its-first-land-defeat-of-wwii.html>

## BushYarn

### A champion sheep dog...

Bush workers love to tell stories about their dogs and, one suspects, the dogs enjoy telling tales about their masters. One of the most popular stories concerns the exploits of a ginger mutt who had been sent out by the station boss to bring in 100 lost sheep. The dog returned two days later with ninety-nine sheep, and the skin of the sheep he had used as rations. He was a champion sheep dog, that one!



## Sewing for Others

A few weeks ago, Judy Powell and the Trinity Sew and Sews were featured on CTV’s Community Connections. It’s a great video about a passion for quilting and using that passion to help others in need. If you missed the video, click here to watch it. [Link]

Judy emailed me about the feature, and we thought you might enjoy her comments about her quilting life, what they were working on, and more about the video.

“I have quilted for many years, starting about 35 years ago with an eclectic group of five or six women who met weekly in the Anglican Church hall in the small town of Laidley in Queensland.

“Here in Winnipeg, I’ve quilted as a joint effort with staff and volunteers from the Vic Hospital for a couple of years from about 1996, quilted at home, and then with the group featured in the CTV clip from about 2010.

“The focus of the CTV filmed interview is a project – one of several different ones we’ve worked on over the years – where we made at least 90 small quilts to be donated to the neo natal intensive care units at Health Sciences and St Boniface.

“The personal interviews were not planned, just a few of our group showed up at the appointed time that day.

“What I am seen working on is the binding hand sewn around the edge of a placemat, one of many our group sends to Meals on Wheels just before Christmas. I had taken two of the placemats I made to the filming, and Natalie Denesovych is pictured hand sewing the binding in the other one.”

Thanks, Judy, and congratulations to your fellow Sew and Sews.

Jenny Gates



## Reader feedback

In a previous *Yarn* you might remember the “single” male Gray Partridge that visited our backyard and spent a night or two there in the snow. Well, as the first picture shows, he returned in March. This time he had a female companion as seen in the second picture. They started out in the yard to the east of us, then either squeezed through the lattice portion of our fence or flew over it into our yard. The male led the way across our backyard with the female following close

behind. Not sure if they again squeezed through the lattice portion of our fence to the west or “flew the coop” but they didn’t spend the night with us and haven’t been seen since. It is interesting as we live in a newer area in the south of Winnipeg so there isn’t a lot of large trees for shelter or food to eat in our neighbourhood but they continue to return. Will they return with a “larger Partridge Family” later this year? Stay tuned

P.S. Our bird book says they were introduced to North America from Europe and so I guess that is why they are commonly called Hungarian Partridge.

– Cheers!! Terry DeLong 5Apr2019





## Flat Whites and Long Blacks

When I first arrived in Canada 23 years ago, finding somewhere in Winnipeg that sold a flat white or a long black was near impossible. Fortunately for us coffee-loving expats from Australia and New Zealand, flat whites are available pretty much everywhere now – even McDonald's has a version – and Miss Brown's also sells long blacks.

Although there is some disagreement over who invented the flat white [link], there is no denying both coffees are popular and delicious.

### So, what are they and how are they made?

First up, a bit of history. Australia and New Zealand have been using the term "flat white" for decades. And while coffee historians believe its exact origins are likely to remain unknown, there are several valid claims to the name and the creation.

Kiwi Fraser McInnes says he invented the name in 1989 when he made a cappuccino for a customer in which the milk was low in fat and failed to rise. "I went over to the customer and said 'Sorry, it's a flat white'."

Aussie Alan Preston lays claim to the term even earlier – in 1985, and there are references to "white coffee - flat" back in the 1960s and 70s. As well, in the British film "Danger By My Side" (1962), the detective in a café is heard to order a 'flat white coffee'.

Regardless of the when and the who, a flat white is essentially milky coffee, slightly stronger than a latte, and made with steamed milk. It has less froth and milk than a latte, and according to Wikipedia, "The milk used in flat whites is velvety and not diluted with foam; this results in a stronger drink that uses a smaller serving size to deliver the same amount of coffee."

Indeed, there are variations on that theme, including Starbucks' flat white that "... is made with two ristretto shots, topped with a thin layer of velvety steamed whole milk and finished with a latte art dot." Ooh, fancy.

For those who prefer a more technical description: "A flat white is a coffee drink consisting of espresso with microfoam



(steamed milk with small, fine bubbles and a glossy or velvety consistency). It is comparable to a latte, but smaller in volume and with less microfoam, therefore having a higher proportion of coffee to milk, and milk that is more velvety in consistency – allowing the espresso to dominate the flavour, while being supported by the milk. A flat white is generally served in a ceramic cup with saucer. Milk is frothed as it would be for a latte, but held back to around 20 mm/1 inch of microfoam, creating a meniscus. Key to the beverage is the crema being coaxed into the meniscus resulting in a uniform dark brown colour across the top of the beverage. Allowing the beverage to stand before drinking enhances the experience as the meniscus thickens and adds texture to each sip, resulting in distinct sip rings/tide marks as the beverage is consumed." [Wikipedia]

Wow! Now what about the long black?

According to White Horse Coffee in Australia [link], the long black comes from the Caffè Americano style of coffee. Back in the day, when American tourists began visiting Italy, they asked for a large cup of black coffee. Over time, Italian baristas, who were used to making – and drinking – black coffee as a small espresso, adapted their espressos and made a large (or long) cup of black coffee in order to please their new customers. A few adjustments to the strength of the espresso, and the long black was born.

Similar to an Americano, long blacks have a stronger aroma and taste. Again, as technically explained by Wikipedia, "A long black is made by pouring a double-shot of espresso or ristretto over hot water. Typically

about 100-120 milliliters of water is used (3.5-4 ounces), but the measurement is considered to be flexible to individual taste. The smaller volume of water compared to an Americano is responsible for its stronger taste. Usually the water is also heated by the espresso machine. A long black is similar to an Americano, which is made by pouring hot water over a double-shot of espresso or ristretto. Both retain the crema when brewed properly, though in the long black the crema will be more pronounced."

As for places in Winnipeg to order a flat white, try Miss Browns, Thom Borgen and Café Postal. Lots of others places – i.e., McDonald's, Starbucks, Tim Hortons, and various cafés – list flat whites on their beverage menus, and if they don't, try ordering a latte without any foam. It's not quite, but it's not bad.

The only place I've found so far that sells long blacks is Miss Brown's. If you hear of any others, please let us know.

By the time you read this, I will be relaxing in some Aussie milkbar, reacquainting myself with burgers with the lot, hot chips, chocolate malted milkshakes, and yes, a flat white or ten. Ah, heaven on earth.

Have a great summer, everyone!

Jenny Gates



## No quoting, naming, killer

Five major NZ news outlets have signed pact not to name the Christchurch killer in the court coverage of his trial. So New Zealanders needn't worry about their government censoring the press.

Last month, the outlets proved themselves only too happy to censor themselves. Representatives of Radio New Zealand, TVNZ, Mediaworks, Stuff and the owner of the New Zealand Herald have signed a pact agreeing to limit their news coverage of Brenton Tarrant, the man charged in the March 15 Christchurch massacre of 50 worshippers at two mosques.

Following the guidelines, the news outlets vow to limit coverage of statements "that actively champion white supremacist or terrorist ideology," avoid quoting the accused killer's "manifesto," and suppress any "message, imagery, symbols" or hand signs like a Nazi salute made by the accused or his supporters in support of white supremacy

## Refugee suicide attempts spike

At least 14 refugees on the island of Manus, Papua New Guinea, have attempted suicide or committed self-harm. This comes amidst growing desperation following the surprise re-election of Australia's conservative government on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The victory of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's Liberal-National coalition defied months of opinion polling indicating a probable win for the left-leaning Australian Labor Party. According to Manus Island rights activist Behrouz Boochani, many asylum seekers were hoping for a change in government to soften Canberra's hard line on asylum.

Manus Island Police Commander, David Yapu, has disputed these numbers telling news agency AFP that he was aware of four suicide attempts only. Yapu added that long term depression must be taken into account rather than linking the attempts to the recent election.

Manus-based refugees and advocates have warned of the consistently deteriorating mental health conditions of detainees. With long-term detention often lasting for years, self-harm and suicide attempts have become frequent. Speaking with Al Jazeera, the Australian Director of Human Rights Watch, Elaine Pearson, said that more than

80% of asylum seekers are reported to suffer from mental health problems and "Australia still has a duty of care to these people." SOURCE: Organization for World Peace

## NZ joins human trafficking fight

Business leaders and Government officials met in Auckland last month to identify how they can collaborate to fight modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

Minister of Immigration Iain Lees-Galloway and Icebreaker chairman Rob Fyfe hosted the closed-door meeting in Orakei which looked at the issue here and across the Asia-Pacific region. Lees-Galloway said the meeting was just the beginning of the conversation on the issue.

"It's clear that we have a problem with migrant exploitation in New Zealand, the enforcement agencies tell me that wherever they go looking for it, they find it," the minister said, adding there were several investigations on modern-day slavery cases underway.

The way forward was for Government, businesses, unions, churches and non-government organizations to work together.

He said businesses were enthusiastic in tackling the problem and demonstrated that New Zealand wants to be a leader.

Tougher legislation and more resourcing into enforcement agencies were also possible options, he said.

## NZ to change abortion laws

Abortion laws in New Zealand are archaic. They satisfy just about no one.

As many as 30% of NZ women will have an abortion in their lifetimes, and the way things stand now, most of them will have to lie to a doctor about the reasons.

But the Government is determined to change the law, to remove abortion from the Crimes Act, and to make abortions easier to get. Opponents, though, say with 13,000 terminations last year, there are already too many, and any changes will see New Zealand turn into an 'abortion on demand' society.

From Paula Penfold and the award-winning Stuff Circuit team comes Big Decision, a brand new documentary ahead of the most significant development in abortion law in 40 years. -SOURCE: stuff, NZ

## Norfolk Islanders fight Oz

A legal challenge with the United Nations alleges Australia has placed Norfolk Islanders' culture and language at risk. The international human rights lawyer Geoffrey Robertson has launched a legal challenge with the United Nations on behalf of Norfolk

Islanders, alleging the Australian government has placed islander's culture and language at risk by revoking their right to self-govern.

The island - roughly halfway between Australia and New Zealand - had been governed by its legislative assembly since 1979, until the Australian government's decision in 2015 to revoke its autonomy. Australian federal and state laws are now enforced and islanders are now entitled to Medicare and other government services. Travelling between the island and Australia no longer requires a passport.

The legal challenge lodged with the UN's office of the high commissioner for human rights includes a report from an Australian linguistics expert, Prof Peter Mühlhäusler, who found Norfolk Islanders have a distinct ethnicity, culture and language.

## More sex assaults at WA varsity

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 on 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 Australian Human Rights Commission back in 2017, which indicated around 94 per cent of students who were sexually harassed and 87 per cent of students who were sexually assaulted didn't make a formal report or complaint to their university. -SOURCE: WA TODAY

Read more from Commonwealth Corner on page nine of the electronic version of most issues 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.





Trained golden eagle,  
Kazakhstan.  
Photo:  
C.Powell

## Eagles

Wikipedia tells us: *"Eagle is the common name for many large birds of prey of the family Accipitridae. Eagles belong to several groups of genera, not all of which are closely related. Most of the 60 species of eagle are from Eurasia and Africa.[1] Outside this area, just 14 species can be found—2 in North America, 9 in Central and South America, and 3 in Australia."*

Like you, I have often seen eagles. Usually they are high in the sky or caged in a zoo. The photo above was a privileged opportunity to be that close to a magnificent golden eagle. A recent sighting was in early May, while driving north of Winnipeg. A bald eagle had just taken an unlucky rodent or rabbit and was flying to a nearby hydro pole to enjoy its breakfast. And the photo below was taken this month, using maximum zoom, on Lake Superior, Wisconsin.



Bald eagle. Photo: C. Powell

Australia's three eagles are: the wedge-tailed, the white-bellied sea-eagle and the little eagle. The wedge-tailed eagle is Australia's largest bird of prey. Its wingspan can exceed 2 meters. However, New Zealand had the largest eagle – Haast's eagle, with a wingspan over 3 meters! Unfortunately,

it went extinct about 500 – 600 years ago, around the same time as the moa. It was endemic to the South Island and bones have also been found on Stewart Island.

Female eagles are larger than males.

Being at the top of their food chain (apex predators) eagles are more vulnerable to any toxic chemicals in the environment, since

they tend to concentrate on their way up the chain. DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) is one such chemical and was banned in 1972 when it was finally realised the effect it was having on the bald eagle population (weak eggshells resulting in accidental crushing). They also play an important role in maintaining a healthy balance in fish and small animal populations.

## The Wedge-tailed Eagle

[Editor: This poem by C. J. Dennis was published in *The Singing Garden* (1935).]

Scarce am I of the earth;  
But lord of the air am I,  
In the heights I had my birth,  
And my range is the broad blue sky.  
Soaring, ever a-wing,  
Swooping down to the kill,  
I fear no feathered thing;  
None may oppose my will.  
Lonely I am, and proud,  
Savage and fierce and strong.  
Afar is my keen gaze bowed  
Where the meek earth creatures throng,  
My prey, my meat are these;  
Larders of living food  
To pluck from their sheltering trees,  
And bear to my hungering brood.  
I watch grey dawns arise  
Where my storm-swept ramparts frown;  
Cradled in painted skies,  
I watch gold eves go down.  
For the chase are my arts employed —  
To harry and hunt and seize;  
Then back to my vast blue void  
In the vault of the mysteries.  
What do I dream of there,  
Where only the eagles go?  
What are my joys, my care?  
None but the eagles know.  
Up from dull earth I lift,  
From the lowly things of the sod,  
And into the zenith drift  
Questing my meat from God.



## Reader feedback

Malcolm W. shared this beautiful photo of bee-eaters. And please check out the patridge story on page 5!



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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

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**Tanzania to ban plastic bags in bid to tackle pollution**

Tourists visiting Tanzania are being urged to remove plastic bags from their luggage after the East African nation implemented a ban aimed at tackling pollution and protecting the environment. Airline passengers have been told to remove the non-recyclable plastic carriers before arriving – although “ziplock” bags used as part of airport security procedures are still permitted.

Advice issued by the Foreign Office for the 75,000 British visitors to Tanzania each year states travellers “may be asked to surrender plastic bags on arrival”. Tanzania joins a growing list of countries around the world which have implemented a bag ban.