

The Southern Yarn

January 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.



downundercalendar

JANUARY 2017

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

This is a FREE fun social event where we celebrate our respective national days and enjoy great food prepared by some of the finest chefs in Winnipeg – YOU! This year your mission is, should you choose to accept, to compete for 1st Prize, Grand Champion, Best in Show with a SALAD. There are endless possibilities with salads – so be creative. Other dishes will of course also be welcome to balance the fare, eg, meat, veggies and desserts. There might also be a fun trivia quiz on New Zealand and Australia – and more prizes! And don't forget – the bar will be open.... RSVP to Judy 204-275-7083 or social@downunderclub.mb.ca

APRIL 2017

Calling all Australians
April 27-28

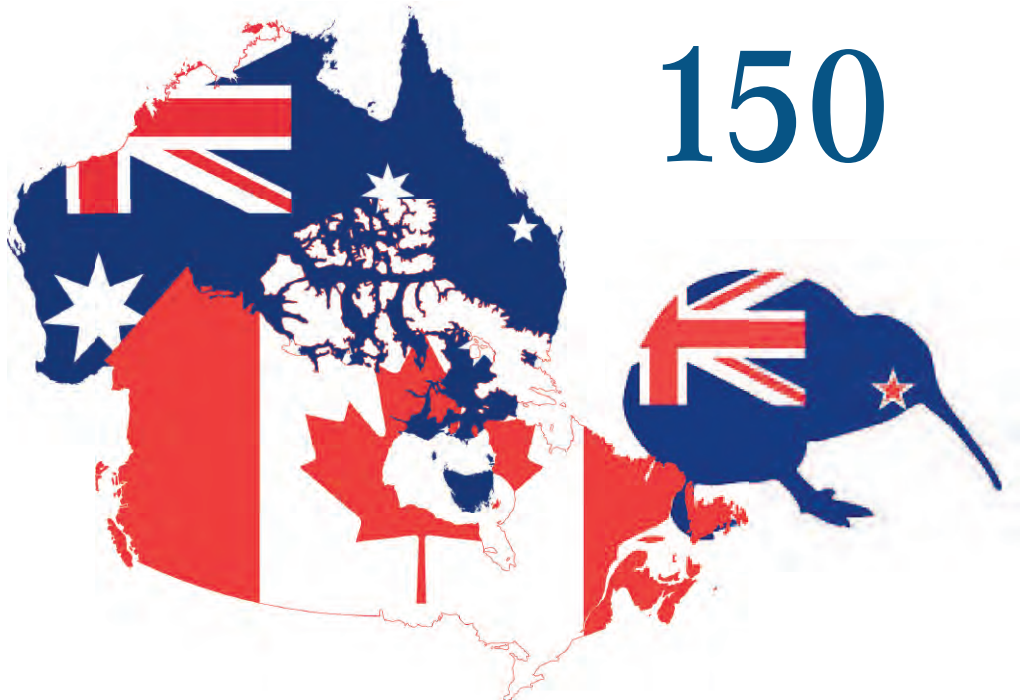
Representatives of the **Australian High Commission** will be in Winnipeg on Friday April 27, 2017, to renew passports, approve new passports, and address any notarial issues or questions. There will also be an **Alumni networking reception** for Australian alumni in the evening of Thursday April 28. Alumni are graduates of an Australian university, vocational or training institution, and exchange teachers. All the details, including how to book online, are included with this issue of the January Yarn. Questions? Contact Jenny at 204-228-9959.

RSVP

Let us know you are coming, RSVP to social@downunderclub.mb.ca, or call Judy at 204-275-7083 or look for the new **RSVP page** under EVENTS on our website.

Advertise in The Southern Yarn. Contact Jenny (228-9959, info@downunderclub.mb.ca) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca

150



This year Canada is celebrating its 150th anniversary of Confederation. One perk for us here in the great white north is a free pass from Parks Canada for all Canada's national parks coast to coast for all of 2017*.

New Zealand celebrated her 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1990. Waitangi Day is the 6th February.

Australia Day is celebrated on 26th January in commemoration of the 1788 arrival of the First Fleet of British Ships at Port Jackson, New South Wales, and the raising of the Flag of Great Britain at Sydney Cove by Governor Arthur Phillip. So the 150th was 1938. However, the equivalent of Canada's

Confederation would be when Australia became an independent nation on 1 January 1901 when the British Parliament passed legislation allowing the six Australian self-governing colonies to govern in their own right as part of the Commonwealth of Australia. Whether there will be a 150th celebration of that in 2051 remains to be seen.

In the meantime, one of our Downunder Club's most popular gatherings will be our celebration of both **Waitangi Day** and **Australia Day** on **Saturday 28th January**. Also a good opportunity to pay your membership dues.

*Apply online, by phone or in person, as noted on their website: [Link]

Dual Canadian citizens need a valid Canadian passport

If you are a dual Canadian citizen used to travelling to or transiting through Canada by air with a non-Canadian passport, you will no longer be able to do so as of November 10, 2016. You will need a valid Canadian passport to board your flight.

If your country needs you to enter and exit that country using a passport issued by its government, you will still need a valid Canadian passport to board your flight to Canada. Make sure to carry both passports when you travel.

Exception: If you are an American-Canadian dual citizen with a valid U.S. passport, you don't need a Canadian passport to fly to Canada. However, you will still need to carry proper identification and meet the basic requirements to enter Canada.

For more information: [Link]. Thanks to member Toby Elson for sending us the link.



online



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www.downunderclub.mb.ca
email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,
When we went to see The Castle at a theatre in Winnipeg it was the first time we experienced spontaneous applause at the end of a movie! That classic movie about the Aussie battler deserved it. There is an update on the fate of the Kerrigan's house in OZ News on p.3.

This month we get to know (p.4) Sir George Grey – explorer in West Australia, Governor of South Australia and two-time Governor of New Zealand. Murray Burt has provided his update on doings in the Commonwealth, p.5. Then in Birds I View (p.6) we feature cormorants.

Thanks again to our contributors this month – Murray Burt, Peter Munn, Jenny Gates, Judy, Tara, Toby, Kim and our sponsors.

A box of home...

Kiwi Food Box

For our Kiwi members, Ethan Gordon wants to introduce you to a new monthly subscription box catering for those Kiwi expats across the world who miss that taste of home. Wanna know more? Check out their website – kiwifoodbox.com

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president's ramblings

Peter Munn



First of all, I wish a Happy and Prosperous New Year to our club members. My family had a very enjoyable Christmas season: our Toronto based prodigal son Tyler flew in, along with his girlfriend Hannah, so the whole gang was here. Tyler earned his keep shoveling some of the record snowfall we had in Winnipeg starting Christmas Day. We were due to have Christmas dinner at Jodi's home, and the forecast was so ominous earlier in the day that we took along cots and sleeping bags just in case we were about to be snowed in. But the snow arrived late enough that the alternate sleeping arrangements were not

needed. Santa was especially nice to me this year, he gave me a new Golf putter, with the assurance it would transform my game – what a guy!!

Stay warm,
I'll see you at the Australia Day/Wai-tangi Day event.

Regards,
Peter



150 years ago

John A

The Dominion of Canada wasn't born out of revolution or a sweeping outburst of nationalism. Rather, it was created in a series of conferences and orderly negotiations, culminating in the terms of Confederation on 1 July 1867. The union of the British North American colonies of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the Province of Canada was the first step in a slow but steady nation-building exercise that would come to encompass other territories, and eventually fulfill the dream of a country a mari usque ad mare (from sea to sea). Read more online: [Link]

New Zealand On Sale!

Add-on flights
are available from
all major cities.

Winnipeg to Auckland rtn \$1,575 (incl. taxes & fees)
Departures 26th Jan to 21st Jun or 24th Jul to 17th Sep
or 1st Nov to 10th Dec. Must Book by 31st Jan 2017

Make the most of Free Airfare Stopovers on your way to New Zealand:
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Welcome to Melissa
and happy mat' leave to Vicky!

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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience





Ever been to Humpty Doo?

It's on the Adelaide River, between Darwin and Kakadu, and can claim Australia's largest barramundi farm. Ian Grinblat also reports in Australian Food News that another large one is Mainstream Aquaculture, near Werribee, Victoria. In fact every state except Tasmania has something on the go when it comes to farming these favourite Aussie fish. Read more online: [\[Link\]](#)



NOT headed for Bonnie Doon ...

The Kerrigan's house from the 1997 movie The Castle ("It's not a house, it's a home") is being saved from demolition and will move from Strathmore, Vic., for Corowa, in southern New South Wales. Once the house arrives in NSW, it will be handed over to the Corowa Whisky and Chocolate factory. There, it will likely become a museum or comedy venue. Read more online: [\[Link\]](#)

Cute little devil ...

Australian Geographic reported that 2016 at last brought some good news for the ongoing battle to save the Tasmanian devil from the terrible infectious cancer that's been decimating them since the 1990s.



In May, researchers from Deakin University in Victoria published evidence that a small number of devils are able to fight off the disease to the point where the facial tumours disappear. And in August a team from Australia, the US and UK found evidence that some devils have evolved genes that resist the disease. Read more online: [\[Link\]](#).

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Worth a visit

Named after a cormorant, Kawau Island 40 km north of Auckland, has enough history to make it a destination for the interested tourist. Once owned by George Grey, Governor of New Zealand from 1845 to 1853, and from 1861 to 1868, the island is now the scene of an ambitious plan to restore some native flora and fauna. Wallabies and possums, first introduced by Grey, are now being culled and/or deported. Read more online: [\[Link\]](#)



Suggest it – they will come ...

They certainly did, 40 of them, after Aucklanders Stephen Jones and Michael Redwood advertized an inaugural Taupo Bay Tractor Spectacular in 2014. Why tractors? Because with no boat ramp, tractors become



an integral part of life for those who enjoy boating during the summer. The annual event now attracts all sorts of creative tractor ideas – and prizes/bragging rights as reward. Read more online: [\[Link\]](#)



Not only Little Bo Peep ...

A Whanganui farmer has lost 1400 lambs, worth about \$120,000, to rustlers in what might be the largest stock heist in the country. Police say a property owner near Fordell had reported the theft. It is the latest in a series of stock thefts from rural properties throughout several districts, though most others involved just a handful of stock at a time. Read more online: [\[Link\]](#)



Earthquake angels ...

The Kaikoura quake was bad news; the response by 3 builder friends was good news. Tyler Fifield, 22 of Blenheim, with mates Josh Tomlinson-Nott and Michael Kerr, loaded a four-wheel drive with chainsaws, tarpaulin, rope, nail guns and other gear and headed south from Blenheim in search of those who needed help. Blenheim escaped unscathed. Fifteen minutes down the road and there's houses lying on the ground. Read more online: [\[Link\]](#)

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George Grey

Sir George Grey was New Zealand's most complex governor. Born in 1812, he was trained in the military and served as a junior officer in Ireland, an experience which shaped his political views. After exploring western Australia in two expeditions between 1837 and 1839, Grey became deeply interested in the cultures of indigenous peoples. In 1840 he wrote a paper for the Colonial Office setting out his theories on racial assimilation. Grey impressed his superiors, who made him governor of the struggling colony of South Australia. He succeeded in improving the financial position of the colony, but not its race relations.

In 1845 Grey was appointed governor of New Zealand, which faced similar difficulties to those he had confronted in South Australia. The colony was virtually bankrupt, and race relations were at a low point. But Grey was given both the funds and the troops which had been denied the previous Governor, Robert FitzRoy. And unlike FitzRoy, Grey was ruthlessly determined.

The Ngāpuhi chiefs Hōne Heke and Te Ruki Kawiti were defeated in the north, and there was fighting in the Hutt Valley, near Wellington. During this latter fighting the Ngāti Toa chief Te Rauparaha was kidnapped and imprisoned without charge or trial. Grey's able lieutenant, Donald McLean, negotiated the purchase of large areas of fertile Māori land. As a result European settlement grew rapidly. In 1848 Grey received a knighthood. He was the chief author of the 1852 constitution which set up provincial and national representative assemblies.

Grey left New Zealand in 1853 to become Governor of the Cape Colony, South Africa. But in 1860 war broke out in Taranaki over the disputed Waitara purchase, and Grey was subsequently reappointed governor of New Zealand. The hope was that through his mana and authority he could make peace. In 1861 he introduced a system of 'new institutions' – local tribal councils. Known as rūnanga, these would have some administrative and judicial functions. The aim was to avoid a repetition of the Waitara disaster, encourage further land sales, and create common ground between settler and Māori which would help racial assimilation. In this Grey largely failed. Fighting broke out again

in Taranaki in 1863, partly because of his delay in returning Waitara to its owners.

After defeating the Taranaki 'rebels', Grey resolved to invade Waikato, the seat of the Kīngitanga (Māori King Movement). It was also the main site of resistance to land sales and settler encroachment. Few historians now accept his justification for invasion, that the Waikato/Maniapoto tribes planned to attack Auckland. The Māori King and his followers were driven from their lands in Waikato after a series of hard-fought battles. In 1864 Grey and his ministers resolved to confiscate almost 3 million acres (1.2 million ha) from the 'rebels' in Waikato and elsewhere. Much of this land was set aside for military settlers or sold to pay for the costs of the war.

By 1865 the British imperial authorities were demanding that the settlers defend themselves and that British troops be withdrawn. Grey was reluctant to carry out these instructions. He was aware that the colony's military were unprepared, and that there was a danger of further conflict. As a result, the British government terminated his appointment in 1868.



George Grey, painted by Daniel Mundy, circa 1860.

After a short period in England Grey retired to his New Zealand home on Kawau Island, where he studied ethnography. He later entered Parliament and became Premier in 1877. In old age he returned to England, where he died in 1898.

If Grey had not taken up a second governorship in 1861 he would no doubt be remembered more affectionately. His reputation is tarnished, however, by his later policies in Taranaki, his invasion of Waikato, and the massive confiscation (raupatu) of Māori land which followed. The confiscations, in particular, caused decades of bitterness and deep division.

Source online: [\[Link\]](#)

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Australia boldly bids for UN human rights seat, despite its island border barriers

Australia is far from perfect but still deserves a seat on the United Nations' Human Rights Council, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop says. Ms Bishop outlined the case for Australia to take up one of two spots on the 47-member council from 2018, saying she realized it was inevitable there would be critics who would oppose the bid because of Australia's controversial offshore detention centre policy.

But she argued Australia was an ideal candidate given its strong track record in promoting fundamental freedoms and free speech.

'No country is perfect,' Ms Bishop told the Lowy Institute.

'Let's go out there and talk about the challenges we face, whether it be indigenous people's rights, whether it be gender equality, whether it be the 18C debate.

'Let's have that as part of our bid, be honest and open enough ... as a nation to say this is what we are trying to do, this is the experience we can share with you.'

Ms Bishop defended the coalition government's approach to offshore detention centres on Nauru and Manus Island, despite a recent Amnesty International report describing conditions there as amounting to torture.

She said since the coalition came to power in 2013, asylum seekers had stopped trying to reach Australian shores by boat with the help of people smugglers.

Australia is up against France and Spain to claim its first seat on the council.

Lowy Institute executive director Michael Fullilove said some critics would argue it wasn't worth Australia being a member of a council that includes Saudi Arabia and Cuba given their track records on human rights.

Ms Bishop said if elected Australia would offer practical and pragmatic advice just as it had done as a member of the UN Security Council in 2013/14.

Australia would also continue to push for the abolition of the death penalty around the world and emphasize the need to protect freedom of expression and gender equality.

Ms Bishop said she would again raise Australia's concerns about Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte's policy of executing drug addicts in his attempt to rid his country of illicit drugs.

She planned to raise concerns with her Philippines counterpart Perfecto Yasay when they next meet and again when Manila hosts ASEAN in 2017. – Source: AAP

Fiji PM undaunted by disasters invites Trump in to see a truth of climate change

Climate change and natural disaster featured prominently on Fiji's economic and political landscape in 2016. But Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama attracted worldwide media attention with his call for US President-elect Donald Trump to visit Fiji 'to see the effects of climate change for himself'.

These effects include the devastation caused by Cyclone TC Winston, a category five cyclone that swept through the country in February, when 44 people lost their lives and 40,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, along with schools and other infrastructure. The Fijian government estimated that the total cost of the disaster was US\$1.4 billion. Economic growth, which was predicted to be 4%, will fall to 2.4%.

This national calamity set the stage for the resumption of military and high level political engagement between Fiji, Australia and New Zealand. Within days of the disaster, New Zealand's Defence Force had mobilized one of its largest peacetime deployments in the Pacific to deliver emergency assistance and help with recovery efforts. Australia similarly deployed its largest naval vessel, the HMAS Canberra, to deliver humanitarian aid to the stricken outer islands.

The foreign ministers of both Australia and New Zealand also made high profile visits to Fiji in the weeks following the cyclone, underscoring the importance both governments placed on their relations with Fiji. NZ Prime Minister John Key made his first visit to Fiji in June – 10 years after the last prime ministerial visit – and Bainimarama made a state visit to NZ in October. Bainimarama also met with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at the UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

Yet differences were never far from the surface. Bainimarama again stayed away from the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' summit in September despite efforts by Australia and New Zealand to conclude the regional free trade agreement – PACER Plus – by the end of 2016.

Two years out from the next general election, Bainimarama's grip on power appears stronger than ever. Bainimarama was also able to bask in the reflected glory of the country's first ever Olympic gold medal win – when its men's rugby sevens team claimed victory in Rio.. – Source: Sandra Tarte, head of

the School of Govt Development and Intl Affairs, University of South Pacific in East Asia Forum

Many Commonwealth members speculating whether BREXIT will be a pro or con

While Brexit continues to dominate the debate in the UK, many other Commonwealth governments are also discussing preparations for globally significant political realignment.

Brexit negotiations would not be well received by other allies. Assurances were swiftly made by one EU Ambassador that their country had no intention of following such a course of action.

Unsurprisingly, Commonwealth influence in the EU and post-Brexit trade have remained salient features of diplomatic debate. Without the UK as an allied influence it is the concern of some that EU development assistance may be targeted away from Commonwealth countries. This was both highlighted by our expert contributors in the September edition of Commonwealth Voices and a question reiterated by the diplomatic community.

Meanwhile bilateral trade agreements are seen as the big opportunity for Commonwealth countries. Some Commonwealth diplomats have expressed hopes that the UK will re-join efforts to support free trade as an independent member of the World Trade Organization, an influence described by one High Commissioner as 'much missed'. However, the UK should not take Commonwealth trade for granted. A recent trip to India by Prime Minister Theresa May was accompanied by calls for a more liberalized visa regime for Indians in return for a favourable trade deal.

The Commonwealth has a stake in the foreign relations of all of its member states, but the UK's withdrawal from the EU is one of the most seismic foreign policy changes for any member in recent times. As one Commonwealth High Commissioner concluded at the RCS roundtable, there is an advantage to be had in allied nations presenting a united front in articulating collective concerns and negotiating positions for co-operation with the UK. For at least the next two and a half years nothing is likely to be more pressing on the political agenda in the UK than its exit from the European Union.

Murray Burt writes this column to raise sensitivities to the Commonwealth's value and to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world. The Commonwealth name and significance is rarely mentioned in daily news, he says. It should be.



birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Cormorants

After moving to Canada and learning about loons, I was fascinated by them and determined to see one in the wild. Several times I thought I had succeeded, only to find that I was looking at a cormorant low in the water.

Like the loon, the cormorant is a diver with complete mastery of its environment. The fact that its feathers are not water-proofed makes it less buoyant and better able to go deep (they will also swallow pebbles to aid that). Great underwater vision, a long rudder-like tail and nostril flaps increase the advantage. The one pictured is a juvenile double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). It was taken by a Yarn reader while visiting Hecla Island in the fall and is the family member most likely to be found on Canada's inland waters. Adult double-crested are mostly black and the males develop "ears" – like fine plumes of long eyebrows during breeding season – hence the name.

Worldwide there are about 40 species of cormorants and shags and a common sight is of them with their wings spread out, to dry the waterlogged feathers. Five species are common in Australia, where the slang saying "like a shag on a rock" seems to have originated – meaning abandoned or alone. Some cormorant species will fish cooperatively with pelicans. New Zealand claims 12, of which 8 are endemic. Kawau Island, 40 km north of Auckland, is named after the

Maori word for cormorant.

The great cormorant has been tamed and trained in Japan and China for several thousand years. By having a snare fixed around the base of their neck, they retain larger fish in their throat – later disgorged for their handlers – while still able to swallow smaller ones.

Cormorants feature in many myths – more often in positive ways, although in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Book 4 (line 196), the devil takes the form of a cormorant. Here is a more flattering poem:

The Cormorant in Its Element

Written by Amy Clampitt

That bony potbellied arrow, wing-pumping along implacably, with a ramrod's rigid adherence, airborne, to the horizontal, discloses talents one would have never guessed at. Plummeting water-ward, big black feet splayed for a landing gear, slim head turning and turning, vermilion-striped, this way and that, with a lightning glance over the shoulder, the cormorant astoundingly, in one sleek involuted arabesque, a vertical turn on a dime, goes into that inimitable vanishing-and-emerging-from-under-the-briny-deep act which unlike the works of *Homo Houdini*, is performed for reasons that nothing at all to do with ego, guilt, ambition or even money.

Amy Clampitt, in *The Norton anthology of Poetry*, Shorter Fifth Edition, p.1011



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PASSPORT INTERVIEWS and NOTARIAL SERVICES

Friday April 28th — 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Eton Room @ Fairmont Winnipeg, 2 Lombard Place

~ An appointment is required as interview spaces are limited. ~
~ Book online at <http://canada.highcommission.gov.au/otwa/events.html> ~
~ For more information, contact 1-613-236-0841 ~

ALUMNI NETWORKING RECEPTION EVENT

Thursday April 27th (evening — time TBC)

RSVP by Thursday April 6th to canadian.alumni@dfat.gov.au

The event is open to graduates of Australian universities, vocational or training institutions and exchange teachers. Interested participants should email **canadian.alumni@dfat.gov.au** with the following details:

- Full name • Institution attended, qualification received and year of graduation
- Area of expertise • Current city of residence and preferred contact details

~ For more information and event location, contact the Public Diplomacy team at canadian.alumni@dfat.com.au or 1-613-236-0841 ~

- All Australian passport applications **must now be lodged in person**. This applies for a new passport, first passport or the renewal of a passport. In Canada, applicants can arrange an appointment with a Passport Officer in either Vancouver, Toronto or Ottawa.
- Australian citizens travelling to Australia must do so on their valid Australian passport.
- Visit <https://smartraveller.gov.au/services/legalising-documents/overseas.html> for a list of notarial services that will also be provided on April 28th.

Become a Smartraveller and register your travels at www.smartraveller.gov.au

The Southern Yarn

February 2017



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

MARCH 2017

Sunday Brunch March 19, 10 am

Miss Browns, 288 William Ave.

Join us for another delicious brunch at the downunder-flavoured Miss Browns.

RSVP to info@downunderclub.mb.ca

APRIL 2017

Calling all Australians April 27-28

Representatives of the **Australian High Commission** will be in Winnipeg on Friday April 28, 2017, to renew passports, approve new passports, and address any notarial issues or questions. There will also be an **Alumni networking reception** for Australian alumni in the evening of Thursday April 27. Alumni are graduates of an Australian university, vocational or training institution, and exchange teachers. All the details, including how to book online, are available at our website. Questions? Contact Jenny at 204-228-9959.

ANZAC Memorial Service Saturday April 29, 6 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service, singing of our national anthems, and 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! As always, the Bar will be open.

RSVP

Let us know you are coming, RSVP to social@downunderclub.mb.ca, or call Judy at 204-275-7083 or look for the new **RSVP page** under EVENTS on our website.

Advertise in The Southern Yarn. Contact Jenny (228-9959, info@downunderclub.mb.ca) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca



What a turnout! What a feast!

About 40 members attended our celebration of both Waitangi Day and Australia Day on Saturday 28th January. A big surprise was the return to our ranks of Peter, Lisa and Kali Gilbert – welcome back from downunder! Congratulations to the salad “bake-off” winners: Judy Powell (Nearly Thai Pineapple Salad), Penny Hetcher (Fruit Salad) and Patty Vidal (Moroccan Pasta Salad). A big thank you to Debbie Griffiths for the celebratory cake, and to all who brought other dishes. Fun and games included Aus and NZ trivia quizzes and two-up – thanks Charlie Powell. The bar was well patronized – thank you Peter Munn.



Real meat pies on 26th January

DUCW members and other expats took the opportunity to enjoy a delicious meat pie and a lamington at Miss Browns on William Avenue to celebrate Australia Day. You could also order a pie floater with a flat white.



online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day and Kia ora,

Yum! Fair dinkum meat pies at Miss Brown's – what a great way to celebrate Australia Day. Several other members had the same bright idea.

It really was a great atmosphere at our joint national celebrations on January 28, especially as there were new faces. And while we celebrated the return of the Gilberds, we obviously missed having the Hinrichsens this year. Fortunately Alanna has taken the time to update us on their first few weeks back "home" – you can read it in Getting to know on p. 4.

Vegemite is true-blue again! Read about that in OZNews on p. 3.

Murray Burt's regular update on doings in the Commonwealth in on p.5. Then in Birds I View (p.6), we feature the common loon.

Thank you to our contributors this month – Brian Hydesmith, Murray Burt, Peter Munn, Alanna Hinrichsen, Jenny Gates and our advertisers.



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president's ramblings

Peter Munn



I was asked some time back by my younger daughter if I would be available to take her family to the airport when they took off to Mexico for a two-week vacation. They have children 1 and 3yrs old, so they needed to take their own car with the two attached baby seats. I was to help them unload at the airport, then drive their car back to their home and park it. I said I would, and when the day approached, I checked the flight details.

Pick up at 3.20 am. Hmm. Seemed a bit early to me. So I set 2 alarms, woke with the first one, and got them to the airport on time. And I rediscovered that I cannot do without at least a reasonable amount of sleep, and I am not good at early rising. It was 2 days before I fully recovered. Luckily the return time has p.m. in there somewhere.

If you weren't able to make the Australia Day/Waitangi Day celebration, you missed something special. Judy and Charlie put on a great event, and close to 40 people attended, including quite a few for the first time. It was nice to welcome them, and we look forward to seeing them in the future.

Regards, Peter

100 years ago ...

The Otago Daily Times reported: [link].

No long faces after horse has feast

A pretty little equine comedy delighted the frequenters of Lichfield street, Christchurch the other day.

A market gardener left a vehicle well stocked with vegetables standing outside one of the fruit markets. A milkman's turn-out was drawn up immediately behind it, the drivers disappearing into the crowd gathered around a sale of fruit.

Soon the milk horse was aware that a substantial meal lay under his very nose. He proceeded to make a raid upon the vegetables, going about the task in a workmanlike way.

He started off with a "fiambre" of lettuce, toying with a succulent heart or two and tossing the bunches to the roadway.

He got through about nine courses, giving the carrots, turnips, potatoes, peas, and cabbages all a turn. A head of red cabbage seemed particularly tasty, as it was devoured with deliberation.

continued on page 4

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On ya, Bega!

The Vegemite brand is back in Australian hands as part of a deal by Bega Cheese worth A\$460m. It was owned by US giant Mondelez International since 2012. Marmite, on the other hand, is owned by Unilever, a British-Dutch multinational consumer goods company. Another version of Marmite is made in New Zealand by the Sanitarium Health Food Company, which is owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Australia – safe or deadly?

Research data presented in The Conversation shows that from 2001 - 2013, an average 3,500 people were admitted to hospital every year for a venom-related injury. This can be loosely averaged 0.01% of the Australian population per year, or roughly one in 10,000 Australians. There were 64 deaths, compared to none from a spider bite. During the same period, nearly 5,000 people died from drowning and 1,000 from burns in Australia. Read more online: [link].



Ancient civilization

Australian Geographic reports: "One of the world's oldest aquaculture sites, an ancient Aboriginal farming settlement that predates Stonehenge and the Pyramids, has been formally nominated for inclusion on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List.

Budj Bim Cultural Landscape, in Lake Condah, south-western Victoria, dates back at least 6,600 years, and shows how a large, settled Aboriginal community systematically farmed and smoked eels for food and trade, challenging the view of Australia's Aboriginal people as all nomadic hunter-gatherers." Read more online: [link].

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



The Winery Tour

The annual Winery Tour is underway for 2017, with this year's lineup featuring the three Bs: singer-songwriters Brooke Fraser, Bic Runga and Benny Tipene. The trio are performing at some of New Zealand's most beautiful wineries throughout February, including Hawke's Bay's Black Barn Vineyards and Matakana's Ascension Wine Estate. Various venues across New Zealand until February 19. Visit Winerytour.co.nz



Pack your gumboots

That special Taihape time is looming in just a few weeks. The great Gumboot Throwing Day is on Saturday March 4 at Taihape Memorial Park from 10am-4pm.

Assistant manager of the Taihape Development Trust Michelle Fannin promises it will be bigger, better and more fabulous than ever, with lots of free family activities. At the top, of course, is gumboot throwing. Read more online: [link].



Insects to the rescue

Two insects common around the Mediterranean will soon be chewing their way through a big problem in Northland.

The Environmental Protection Authority has approved an application by Northland Regional Council to introduce a wasp and a scale insect to New Zealand to control the giant reed, *Arundo donax*.

The reed, sometimes known as elephant grass or bamboo grass, is mainly found in Northland, but could potentially establish throughout New Zealand. More online [link].

Condolences

Shirley Stacey, a long-time member of the Club and Jan Debenham's mother, passed away February 2nd at 86 years of age. Our sympathy goes out to Jan and her family.

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The Hinrichsens in Australia

The Hinrichsen family recently left Winnipeg for Orange, NSW, Australia. Following is a brief update on their transition from one country to another. If you want to stay in touch with the family, Alanna is on Facebook, and we can send you their email address.

Hi everyone,
After a missed flight and lost luggage we did finally make it here. All the goodbyes were hard, as expected, but a great reflection on how many great friends we have and how special our family is.

Took us a while to get mobile phones sorted and we finally got internet at our house. Typing email updates on my phone was painful so it's nice that I can now type on the laptop. It's a bit cloudy today but the temperatures have been about +30C to +35C each day, which has been pretty hot coming from -20C. Unfortunately, Grant, Kaitlyn and I were really sick with cough/cold/flu-like symptoms once we got here. Kaitlyn and I got progressively worse so we finally went to a doctor and found out we both have bronchitis. On meds now, so hopefully on the road to recovery.

Otherwise been busy setting up life - Medicare, car registration, drivers licenses, school uniforms and supplies, etc.

Kids recently had their first swim meet.

The pool is outdoors so we were in +33C for 10 hours. Luke had PB's in every race and swam a qualifying time for the Country Championships in February. Country Championships are for all swimmers outside the Sydney clubs. There are over 240 clubs outside of Sydney (and another 100 clubs in Sydney), so it will be quite a good meet (and it's at the Sydney Olympic pool). The coaches were very impressed and Luke was thrilled! He really enjoyed himself.

Considering Kaitlyn had bronchitis and has trained twice since we got here, she had a decent good meet - one personal best and did alright in her other races. If she was healthy, she likely would have won most of her events but she did come 2nd, 3rd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th in her races. And she won \$14 in the process - \$4 each for 3rd place and \$6 for 2nd place. What a country!

We went for a bit of a tour of Kaitlyn's high school today. All looks good. She is looking forward to it and isn't nervous at all. It's a big school (similar to Grant Park) so she should be good. We go see Luke's school on Friday. Both kids look great in their school uniforms. The pool they train in is quite nice too. Has both an indoor 25m pool and an outdoor 50m pool. Mostly outside now, but will move indoors for the winter months.

Went up to Grant's brothers place a few days ago. He recently put in a pool and a ten-



Did you know Alanna was inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame last year?! (l-r) Grant, Kaitlyn, Alanna and Luke Hinrichsen. Photo

nis court so it's a great place to visit. The cousins get on well so that's good. Haven't seen any snakes or deadly spiders yet, but did see a sign at a playground by the beach. Also drove past a field full of kangaroos (50+) so that was pretty cool. Beautiful parrots and galahs around, too.

Will be nice to get into a routine when school starts. Then maybe we will look for employment. Although it feels like a holiday right now, money will need to be made :).

That's about it for now. Miss you all.
Alanna

Miss you as well, Hinrichsens. - Editor

100 years ago, (continued from page 2)

After the vegetables had been sampled, the nag found some biscuits in a bag. He was engaged upon these when his owner arrived.

He mildly censured the now well-satisfied animal, pulled him out from the ranks and drew up another horse in his place, backing his own turn-out behind an iron-monger's cart. Thus the resource of the milkman's horse was equalled only by that of its owner.

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Australia's detention centre on Manus Island. (ABC)

Oz PM says Trump reaffirmed a refugee deal was in works

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull affirms the US president's commitment to deal, amid confusion, over what exactly has been agreed to on the refugee resettlement agreement

Donald Trump has personally committed to honouring a refugee deal with Australia, Turnbull said, amid ongoing confusion over whether the deal will proceed and what has actually been agreed to.

"The Trump administration has committed to progress with the arrangements to honour the deal ... that was entered into with the Obama administration, and that was the assurance the president gave me when we spoke last weekend," Turnbull told an audience at the National Press Club in Canberra.

Asked whether the US's "extreme vetting" could mean that fewer than the intended 1,250 refugees would benefit from the resettlement deal, Turnbull said it was for the US government to determine who goes to the US.

The White House says the US will take up to 1,250 refugees under the Australian deal.

Turnbull's comments follow a statement from the White House spokesman Sean Spicer who said the US had agreed to consider resettlement of 1,250 of the refugees held in Australia's offshore detention centres on Manus Island and Nauru. Most have been on the islands more than three years.

Ahmadiyya Muslims in NZ condemn Trump's refugee ban

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community strongly condemns the ban announced by US President Donald Trump on travel of residents of the seven Muslim countries, as well as the strict restrictions place on refugee move-

ment into and through the US. The community strongly believes that such restrictions are a violation of the basic human rights, and affect in some cases the most vulnerable of people who are seeking refuge from injustice, violence, and persecution.

"We are deeply troubled by the policies being announced by the new US administration. At a time when many of the world's nations are ravaged by war, famine, and religious intolerance, the last thing we needed was more divisive measures" says Mr Bashir Khan, the President of AMJNZ.

He urges the New Zealand government to take a stand against such measures, condemning these as a violation of human rights.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, fast-growing international revival movement within Islam. Founded in 1889 in Punjab, India, it spans over 206 countries with membership in the tens of millions. It is a registered charitable organization.

Fiji mentally ill left at police stations

The Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission is urging families and guardians to show compassion and care towards their loved ones who are mentally ill and challenged.

The Commission's call comes following the outcome of an investigation conducted in Nadi and Lautoka, where some mentally ill persons are left at police stations. Director Ashwin Raj says it is worrying to see mentally ill people abandoned by their loved ones, who are left to live in appalling conditions, some even incarcerated because they are suffering from a violent episode.

He says what is more upsetting is that some of these people are left in police stations as a last recourse, which is not the right institution for such persons. The commission says these people require psychiatric help.

It says police do not have the necessary resources or medical expertise to assist such persons, hence, families or guardians must not burden police with such responsibility. The commission says the families or guardians of the mentally challenged should seek the assistance of medical authorities. It says some of the mentally ill persons are already trauma-stricken because of physical and sexual abuse.

Abandoning them at police stations can only cause more stress and trauma.

The Commission will work hand in hand with Fiji Police, Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation and other

concerned groups such as religious leaders and civil society organizations on this matter.

With PM gone, NZ anticipates 2017 election

John Key's sudden announcement in December to resign as New Zealand's Prime Minister and leader of the National Party represented further proof that Key was no career politician.

And this was part of his appeal – he was a New Zealander from a modest background who went overseas, made good and decided to come back home 'to make a contribution'. A Kiwi version of what Americans used to call a 'Horatio Alger' story.

By definition, his appeal was formed on personal narrative rather than policy, and not easily transferable to a successor. His success was grounded in an ability to connect with New Zealanders of virtually all ages and backgrounds with an approachable 'common touch'. Key was a person Kiwis enjoyed having their picture taken with. He represented the closest the country has come to celebrity obsession.

Key's personal qualities, on display during parliamentary question time and televised leaders' debates, likewise made him a stand-out performer, outshining less versatile opposition figures. Key's dominance of New Zealand's political scene, sustained over three general elections and in opinion polls stretching over at least eight years as the Kiwi 'preferred prime minister', brought the National Party three consecutive election victories.

Leaving office, Key noted three disappointments – the failure to persuade the nation to adopt a new flag, the apparent collapse of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement as a result of the 2016 US elections, and the delay in implementing a promised maritime reserve around the country's Kermadec Islands due to Maori opposition. Only one of them, the initiative for a new flag, was the result of rejection by the electorate.

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

The Common Loon

I was so smitten by the loon, I carved one! (Instructor and guide: Bill Palmer)

If the thought of a kookaburra's laugh immediately transports you to the Australian bush, then you will understand why the call of the loon makes a Canuck pine wistfully for a cabin or campfire by a moonlit lake. And if you've never heard one, click here on the Audubon website and listen to the audio clips offered, especially #2: [link]. They're even more haunting when you hear wolves answering the call!

Gavia immer is the common loon – the one most likely seen in North America. There are 4 other living species: the pacific, the red-throated, the yellow-billed and the black-throated. They come north in the spring to breed and raise their young – one

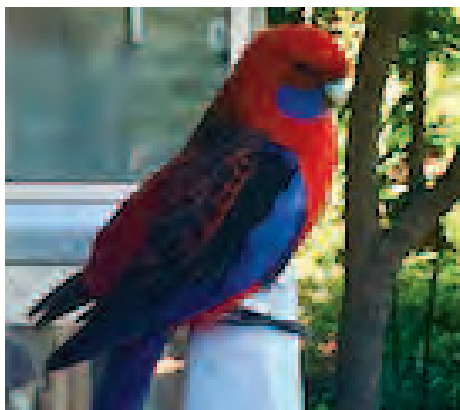


or two chicks. Winters are spent in the Gulf of Mexico and other coastal waters, or other lakes and reservoirs that don't freeze. The size of the lake is as important as its fish population because the loon needs a relatively long take-off.

Unlike geese, ducks, swans, etc., loons webbed feet are well back – good for underwater acrobatics, but not so good for walking.

So they build their nest close to the water for a quick escape from predators.

Loons are a protected species in Canada – probably a good thing: I read once that the way to cook a loon is to put a rock in the water with the bird, boil for 3 days, then remove the loon and eat the rock! Anyway, you won't find a loon decoy. Fishermen and recreational boaters are expected to exercise caution because the boat's wake and wash can cause the loss of eggs from the nest. Unfortunately, loons are threatened by the effects of acid rain, pollution, lead sinkers, and fishing lines and hooks.



crimson rosella



red-breasted nuthatch

Reader feedback: M. Whyte was pleased to have a visit by a crimson rosella in Canberra. And K. Vidal, Winnipeg, reported a not-so-common red-breasted nuthatch at his feeder.



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India's cricket firings

Cricket is called a "religion" and "cult" in India. But in a nation with many faiths and cults, this game should not be above the law of the land.

Fair play and accountability are needed, even when rights of each individual and organization have become synonymous with making money and exploiting sentiments of the gullible who are intent on entertainment in any form, at any cost.

The Supreme Court of India signalled this early last month when it sacked a recalcitrant Anurag Thakur, 43, the youngest chief, and all top officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the world's richest cricket body.

A court-appointed panel under Justice R.M. Lodha, a former chief justice, has been directed to select those who will run the board's multifarious activities.

The BCCI had it coming after refusing to implement norms laid down by the Lodha Committee, also appointed by the highest court last year. Among many measures, the panel has recommended an age bar on powerful politicians, businessmen and officials who are getting repeatedly elected to guard their vested interests.

Considering this is a sports administration body, only a handful of retired players are on the board, generally those who play along and profit.

Like Bollywood heroes, the BCCI brass played double role before the court – one in the state units and another at the national level – one blaming the other for refusing to implement the court-directed reforms. – Source: Mahendra Ved, New Delhi

And just in case you missed this recently...

Dual Canadian citizens need a valid Canadian passport

If you are a dual Canadian citizen used to travelling to or transiting through Canada by air with a non-Canadian passport, you are no longer able to do so (as of Nov., 2016). A valid Canadian passport is required to board your flight.

If your other country needs you to enter and exit that country using a passport issued by its government, you will still need a valid Canadian passport to board your flight to Canada. Make sure to carry both passports when you travel.

Exception: If you are an American-Canadian dual citizen with a valid U.S. passport, you don't need a Canadian passport to fly to Canada. However, you will still need to carry proper identification and meet the basic requirements to enter Canada.

Details: [\[link\]](#).

The Southern Yarn

March 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.



downundercalendar

MARCH 2017

Sunday Brunch March 19, 10 am

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Join us for another delicious brunch at the downunder-flavoured Miss Browns. RSVP to info@downunderclub.mb.ca

APRIL 2017

Calling all Australians April 27-28

Representatives of the **Australian High Commission** will be in Winnipeg on Friday April 28, 2017, to process new and renewed passports, and address any notarial issues or questions. There will also be an **Alumni networking reception** for Australian alumni in the evening of Thursday April 27. Alumni are graduates of an Australian university, vocational or training institution, and exchange teachers. All the details, including how to book online, are available at our website. Questions? Contact Jenny at 204-228-9959.

ANZAC Memorial Service Saturday April 29, 6 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin
Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service, singing of our national anthems, and 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! As always, the Bar will be open.

RSVP

Let us know you are coming, RSVP to social@downunderclub.mb.ca, or call Judy at 204-275-7083 or look for the new **RSVP page** under EVENTS on our website.

Advertise in The Southern Yarn. Contact Jenny (228-9959, info@downunderclub.mb.ca) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca



MacArthur in Brisbane

While in Brisbane last month Judy and I accepted my brother's invitation to visit MacArthur Museum where he volunteers (our Mum was a war bride). It proved a very interesting visit – videos and displays convey the reality of life for the locals at the time and of the drama playing out around them.

The following is from the website:

MacArthur's arrival in Australia in March 1942 after a harrowing escape from the Philippines through the Japanese forces made headlines around the world. When he came into Melbourne he was greeted by political leaders, reporters and an enthusiastic public. In contrast, when he moved his GHQ (General Headquarters) to Brisbane in July, he arrived without fanfare.

General Douglas MacArthur occupied the AMP building (now MacArthur Cham-

bers) offices from 20 July 1942 to November 1944. His offices were on the eighth floor, now the Museum. Command meant not only oversight of battles in Papua-New Guinea but also regular briefings for the Australian Government in Canberra, co-ordination with the US Government, the US Navy's Pacific Command in Hawaii, and struggles with superiors in Washington.

In the US, as in Britain, strategists focused first on the war against Hitler, fought out in Europe and Africa. MacArthur had to take on Washington in order to get resources to defend Australia and turn back the Japanese advance. His determination in this battle won him great respect in Australia's highest military and political circles.

Read more at: <https://www.mmb.org.au/>
Charlie

REMINDER ABOUT PASSPORT RENEWALS AND ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT

Do you need to schedule a **passport interview** with consular officers from the Australian High Commission? Interviews will take place on Friday April 28 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at Fairmont Winnipeg (2 Lombard Pl) in the Eton Room. Interview spaces are limited, and anyone wanting to book an appointment must do so online at this link: canada.highcommission.gov.au/otwa/events.html.

Are you a **graduate** of an Australian university, vocational or training institution, or an exchange teacher to or from Australia? Then you are invited to attend the **Alumni Networking Reception** in the evening of Thursday April 27 (time and location to be decided). If you want to attend this outreach event, RSVP by Thursday April 6 to this email: canadian.alumni@dfat.gov.au

Got any questions? Contact Jenny at info@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-228-9959.



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day,

We have just returned from 3 weeks in Australia. Some of the time was a trip down memory lane, reconnecting with friends from 50 years ago. Much of the time was spent with family. And it was thanks to family that we were able to take the opportunity to get out and enjoy the unique bush and birdlife. New for us were the Maleny Botanic Gardens and Bird World [Link], where the colourful collection are happy to perch on your head or shoulder; and Osprey House Environmental Centre [Link] at the Pine River estuary, Griffin, Qld. One character that you can easily encounter

downunder is the ibis – the mascot of my old high school: "I Believe In Sandgate". So this month the ibis is the focus of Birds I View, p.6 and also the inspiration for Bert Hinkler, in Getting to know, p.4.

Jenny Gates introduces us to a new monthly feature: What's On, p.2, and Murray Burt's regular update on doings in the Commonwealth is on p.5.

Thank you to our contributors this month – Brian Hydesmith, Murray Burt, Peter Munn, Jenny Gates and our advertisers.

consular connections

Who's who and what's what at our High Commissions

Want to stay connected with the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions in Ottawa? Then follow them on Facebook and visit their websites.

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president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Having been cold for far too long, I decided that I needed to get ready for the upcoming golf season, and with that would come remembrances of warmer times. For too long now, my efforts to slam my tee shot 260 yards down the fairway with my less than trusty driver had been fruitless. In fact, my drives now rarely, if ever, get near the 190 yard mark. (I listened to an interview with Phil

Mickelson yesterday, where he said that in the rarified air of a mountain golf course tournament in Mexico he was presently playing, his nine iron shots were travelling over 180 yards. Hmmm).

And so I began searching for a driver version of the best club in my bag, a Cobra 7 wood with relatively modern technology, that actually works for my slow swing. I am still searching through the internet, Kijiji, etc, for the right match, and when I find it, don't bet against me.

Regards,
Peter

what's on

Aussie and Kiwi books, tv shows, movies and other things in Winnipeg and Manitoba

Books

Seen in secondhand bookstores:

- *The Dressmaker* by Rosalie Ham (Aus)
- *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton (NZ)

Shows

Now on Netflix:

- *The Principal*
- *Offspring*
- *The Moodie Christmas*
- *The Hunt for the Wilderpeople*
- *Blinky Bill: The Movie*

Other

- Get your Vegemite at London Drugs (St Vital) and Teeyahs (downtown on Hargrave).
- KangaROOS are shoes with pockets. Not from down under, but available at Payless if you want something with an Aussie flavour.

Please email us at info@downunderclub.mb.ca with other suggestions to include in this monthly column.

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For the birds ...

The Australian Bird Feeding and Watering Study aims to gather quantitative data on the effects of supplementary feeding and providing water for birds, and the reasons why people provided food and/or water. In doing so we aim to develop guidelines for people who feed birds to do so with minimum risk to birds. [Read more online]

International modern agriculture planned for Melbourne's West ...

Australian Food News reports: A region in Melbourne's outer western perimeter near Melton is set to become home to one of Australia's most exciting developments in peri-urban agribusiness.

In mid-2016, China's Fucheng Investment group purchased the last available section of the Baillieu family's Woodhouse Station in Melbourne's outer west for AUD \$100 million.

Fucheng Investment has now announced the land will be used to create an "agribusiness city". [Read more online]

Messina partners with Arnott's for new Tim Tam range ...

Australian Food News reports: Arnott's and Messina Gelato have teamed up to create an ice cream-inspired Tim Tam range.

The four flavours in the range include: Choc Mint, Salted Caramel and Vanilla,

Coconut and Lychee, and Black Forest.

Messina said the collaboration came about after they received an email in 2015 from Arnott's. [Read more online].

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Put money where your feet are

It may be time to start charging for the use of the country's Great Walks, Department of Conservation director-general Lou Sanson says.

Foreign tourists could pay \$100 and New Zealanders \$40 to cope with a huge increase in trampers – especially overseas travellers – and their effect on the environment, he suggested.

Sanson said the country's Great Walks brand had "exploded" but this popularity had created some problems. [Read more online]



Pests-be-gone ...

Wellington's leaders have officially announced plans to make the city the world's first predator-free capital – a goal researchers say is possible.

The ambitious effort has now prompted calls for Auckland to step up and follow suit.

Those behind Wellington's plan say a

predator-free city would mean that birds, lizards, geckos and other native fauna could thrive in the city, bringing big environmental and economic benefits.

It first involves eradicating stoats and rats from the Miramar Peninsula, where possums were eradicated a decade ago. [Read more online].



The Otaki's Epic battle

A posthumous Victoria Cross was awarded to the Otaki's skipper, 39-year-old Captain Archibald Bissett-Smith, for his efforts against the German naval ship Moewe (disguised as a Merchant). The two engaged on 10th March 1917 off the Azores in the North Atlantic. Bissett-Smith didn't back down despite his slower and heavily out-gunned vessel. Before going down with his ship, enough damage was inflicted on the Moewe to keep it out of action for several days. [Read more online]

New Zealander surprise winner of major literary prize

It's the kind of news we all dream of receiving, but New Zealand author and poet Ashleigh Young thought it was a hoax when told she'd receive more than \$200,000 from one of the world's richest and most secretive literature prizes. Young, 33, arrived at work last Thursday to find a "suspicious looking email" from Yale University about the Donald Windham-Sandy M Campbell Literature Prize. She is the first New Zealander to receive a Windham-Campbell Literature Prize, which aims "to call attention to literary achievement and provide writers the opportunity to focus on their work independent of financial concerns". [Link]

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Bert Hinkler



Bert Hinkler

Bert Hinkler was born in Bundaberg, Queensland on the 8th of December, 1892. The son of a mill worker, he was fascinated by flight.



Glider

During 1911 and 1912 a glider was constructed by Bert Hinkler, each rib and spar skilfully hand crafted in his backyard workshop. It was usually transported to Mon Repos beach (now a protected nesting site for Loggerhead turtles) by horse-drawn vehicles. In April 1912, he had rebuilt the flimsy glider, and with an ironing board serving as his cockpit, it took to the air with him aboard, and launched young Herbert John Louis Hinkler into the exciting and developing world of aviation.

On February 7, 1928, flying solo, he took off from Croydon, England and reached Darwin, Australia on February 22, 1928. Record after record had been shattered by G-EBOV, this amazing light aircraft. Both the original aircraft, G-EACQ and G-EBOV, are on display at the Queensland Museum in Brisbane, Australia.



The Avro Avi, an experimental aircraft with which Hinkler had considerable experience.

Bert Hinkler purchased an English-built DH80A Puss Moth in Canada, and soon set off on the first solo crossing of the South Atlantic Ocean, which he achieved between October and December 1931. Regretfully in the same aircraft, the boy born at Woodbine Villa, Gavin Street, Bundaberg, met an untimely end on Mt. Pratomagno Italy, on the 7th of January 1933 while attempting another solo record to Australia.



Puss Moth

The DH80A Puss Moth on display in the Hinkler Hall of Aviation has been faithfully restored to the exact specification as flown by Bert Hinkler. This is a very rare and valuable aircraft. The acquisition and restoration of this aircraft was made possible by generous donations from business, private individuals and the Italian Community of Bundaberg. This major project was carried out by the Hinkler House Memorial Museum & Research Association Inc.



Ibis Amphibian

The Ibis amphibian was built back at Hamble with a friend - the aeronautical engineer, Roland Bound. Regretfully Hinkler had to abandon the development due to lack of interest and the onset of the great depression. A full scale replica, the property of the Hinkler Hall of Aviation Memorabilia Trust, was built in 1987/88 and is proudly displayed in the Hinkler Hall of Aviation in the Botanic Gardens adjacent to the Hinkler House Memorial Museum, Bundaberg.



Hinkler in later years

Hinkler references:

E. P. Wixted, 'Hinkler, Herbert John (Bert) (1892-1933)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, published first in hardcopy 1983, accessed online 5 March 2017. [Link]

Grantee Kieza, "Bert Hinkler: The Most Daring Man In The World", published by HarperCollins.

Courier Mail article [Link]

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Pilot whale beachings in NZ

More than 650 pilot whales beached themselves last month along a five-kilometre stretch of shoreline on Farewell Spit at the northwest tip of the South Island, attracting hundreds of volunteers to help with their rescue.

Many were saved by the volunteers, while others died or had to be euthanized.

Such stranding episodes are not uncommon in NZ, but rarely if ever do they occur in on such a large scale. About 335 of the whales had died by the time they were first discovered. Volunteers immediately returned about 150 back into the surf on the first day, leaving 220 still stranded that had to be kept swathed with wetted blankets until the next tide. Many succumbed.

After the first episode, a new pod of 240 whales swam aground at another remote beach just hours after scores of weary volunteers managed to refloat a different group of whales following an earlier mass stranding.

It is the third largest stranding in history. Largest was at the Chatham Islands in 1918, and second largest in Auckland in 1950.

Australia urges end to death penalty in Asia Pacific

Last month a small ceremony was held to remember the 50th anniversary of the execution of Ronald Ryan at Pentridge jail in Melbourne. Ryan's execution for the murder of a prison guard proved to be the tipping point for Australia. It sparked a movement for abolition of the death penalty, which culminated in 1985 when capital punishment was abolished.

This act of domestic law reform was soon followed by action on the international stage in 1990 when Australia ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), creating an international law obligation to abolish the death penalty.

Australia has since become a strong international voice against the death penalty, partly forged out of the execution of its citizens in Malaysia, Singapore, and most recently Indonesia, where Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran were executed for drug trafficking in 2015.

Australia's international advocacy for abolition of the death penalty was further advanced in 2016 when the parliamentary report 'A World Without the Death Penalty' was released, which made 13 recommendations as to how Australia could improve this advocacy. These recommendations are under consideration as part of Australia's Foreign Policy White Paper due out in mid-2017. The country with the largest number of executions per year is China.

Immigrants help tap Asian wine market

The Australian Population and Migration Research Centre at the University of Adelaide finds that Chinese students can play a crucial role in the state's wine business as it seeks to make inroads into the Chinese market. One medium-sized winery in Adelaide Hills began generating significant sales in China after employing a Chinese student. The student began addressing occasional enquiries from Chinese customers before creating a position for herself as the winery's lead China strategist.

These examples illustrate just a small part of the growing importance of the Chinese diaspora in fostering bilateral economic ties. Yet the Australian government and business sector is not taking advantage of this vital human asset. A recent report by the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) argues that the country should make better use of this talent pool.

Peter Thiel: NZ great place for business. He has a biggie or two

Kiwis find they have a German billionaire as a citizen in their midst and while not upset about it, they wonder how come. The gent in question is Peter Thiel, a nice young man, very bright, who is a co-founder of the very profitable Paypal operation.

Thiel's NZ status occurred several years ago but was not made generally known until last month. What is more, the change was granted despite the fact he did not exactly meet prerequisites of residence duration or plans to live in his new "homeland". The decision occurred because it was "in the public interest," and no doubt because he owned several million-dollar properties in the country.

What makes it a story (or two) was the surprise of the announcement, which is supported by the facts contained in some of the 145 pages of documents released by the department of internal affairs.

Thiel was born in Germany and won his citizenship despite the fact he had not lived in NZ for the prescribed 1,350 days. Nor had he any intention of doing so. The formal process of acceptance occurred in a private ceremony in Santa Monica in 2011. Winning facts involved his talent as an entrepreneur and his philanthropic bent.

His investments in New Zealand, including those in the companies Xero and Pacific Fibre Ltd., as well as his intention to start a "technology incubator" in Auckland and use his San Francisco connections to provide US introductions for New Zealand businesses, helped the process.

Australian Commission's look at Nauru

An Australian human rights lawyer is welcoming the announcement that a Royal Commission will hold limited hearings into the sexual abuse of children detained on Nauru.

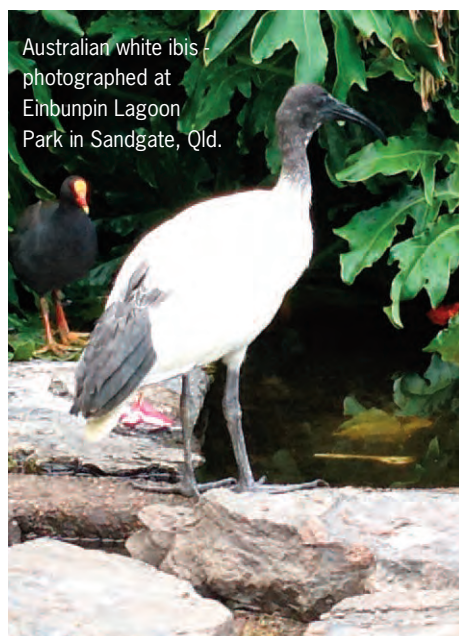
The Australian-run detention centre on Nauru has been mired with allegations of child abuse and mental health issues. But until now, the Royal Commission, which was set up to investigate how institutions in Australia have responded to child sexual abuse, has said it doesn't have the power to look at offshore detention centres.

However, Hugh de Kretser, from the Human Rights Law Centre, said his organization released advice saying it did have the power to examine the response of the Australian government and its contractors, and added the commission would now examine the government's response to the recommendations of a child protection panel into abuse in immigration detention.

Read more 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.



Australian white ibis -
photographed at
Einbunpin Lagoon
Park in Sandgate, Qld.

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

The Ibis

It is thought that severe droughts in the late '70s and '90s led to the mass migration of *Threskiornis molucca* to urban regions of Australia. As a result, some locals now view them as a pest, although tourists probably see them as a novelty. They have certainly become opportunistic scavengers wherever picnickers gather, and are becoming as bad-mannered as seagulls and pigeons. Apart from human scraps, their favourite food is crayfish and mussels.

Human interference and modification for agriculture of their natural breeding habitat, inland wetlands and marshes, is a serious concern for their long-term survival. Hopefully compromise will prevail.

The issue gets a good review in an ABC Science article from 1970 [Link].

Another common member of the family in Australia is the straw-necked ibis. It has more dark plumage on the back and distinctive straw-like feathers on the neck. Apart from the usual aquatic fare, these ibises are very farmer-friendly as they feed on crop pests such as grasshoppers, crickets and locusts.

The third variety in Australia is the glossy ibis. It is the smallest and most globally distributed – even a vagrant winter visitor to New Zealand.

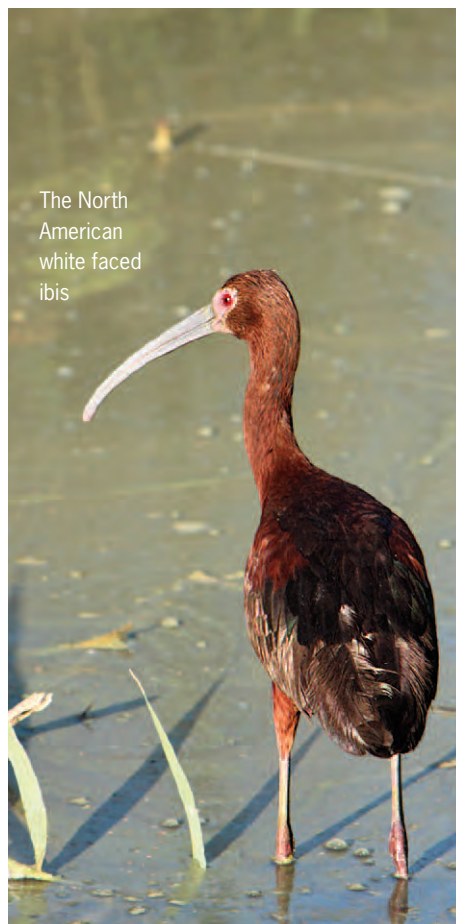
North America hosts a white ibis (much more totally white than Australia's) and the white-faced ibis, which can be found on Canada's west coast. We don't see ibises in Manitoba.

Did you know? ...

The mascot of the University of Miami is an American White Ibis. The ibis was selected as the school mascot because of its legendary bravery during hurricanes. The ibis is the last sign of wildlife to take shelter before a hurricane hits and the first to reappear once the storm has passed. [Link]

Flavius Josephus suggests that Moses commanded Egyptian troops and led them to victory against the forces of neighbouring Ethiopia. According to that account, the Ethiopians were raiding the Egyptians, and the Pharaoh ordered Moses to lead an army to stop the raiders once and for all. Moses then used a remarkable tactic to take the Ethiopians by surprise.

The Ethiopians were expecting Moses to attack by marching along the river, rather than by land, because the land between the two armies was so thick with snakes that it was impassable. For that very reason, Moses was determined to march over land. He ordered his artificers to construct cages and to carry ibis birds (a sacred bird in Egypt) with them. The ibis is a natural enemy of snakes, and so they scattered the snakes, and the army was safe. Thus the army crossed the land, surprised the enemy, and defeated them. [Link]



The North
American
white faced
ibis



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Trump's Australia call worrying

The furore that erupted around President Trump's truncated telephone call with Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull last month underlined the problems that not only Australia but partners from Berlin to Tokyo are now being forced to confront. How will these major partners, Beijing included, fare in dealing with the Trump administration.

Threats to peace and security across East Asia are multiplying. The challenges of a nuclear-armed North Korea and Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea are both pressing issues.

The Trump-Turnbull episode has impact far beyond the Australia-US alliance relationship. It was headline news around the world because of the line of sight it provided into what's going on in the minds of Trump and his closest deputies in the White House.

Tellingly, Secretary of Defense James Mattis has been in Asia on a mission to reassure Japan and South Korea that the United States remains a reliable ally and is not turning its back on the region. Mattis assured Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that the United States would stand by its mutual defence treaty, despite statements by President Trump during last year's campaign that suggested he might pull back from American security commitments in Asia.

—Source: East Asia Forum

The Southern Yarn

April 2017



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

APRIL 2017

Australian Passports & Alumni April 27-28

Representatives of the **Australian High Commission** will be in Winnipeg on Friday April 28, 2017, to process new and renewed passports, and address any notarial issues or questions. There will also be an **Alumni networking reception** for Australian alumni in the evening of Thursday April 27. Alumni are graduates of an Australian university, vocational or training institution, and exchange teachers. All the details, including how to book online, are available at our website. Questions? Contact Jenny at 204-228-9959.

ANZAC Memorial Service Saturday April 29, 6 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service, singing of our national anthems, and 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! As always, the Bar will be open. And you can meet our guests of honour: **Louise Murray**, Second Secretary and Consul, Australian High Commission (Ottawa) who will be in Winnipeg for the Australian Alumni Outreach Event and passport interviews, and LCol (ret'd) **Art Brown** RCAF from the Memory Project who will be delivering a presentation titled "Canadians at Gallipoli".

RSVP

Let us know you are coming, RSVP to social@downunderclub.mb.ca, or call Judy at 204-275-7083 or look for the new **RSVP page** under EVENTS on our website.

Advertise in The Southern Yarn. Contact Jenny (228-9959, info@downunderclub.mb.ca) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca



The large crowd enthusiastically made their guests feel welcome.

Friendly folks here & there

On Wednesday February 15, Peter and Margaret Munn and I were invited to attend a Friendship Force (FF) Manitoba and FF Winnipeg potluck dinner to welcome 28 Aussies and one Kiwi to Winnipeg.

The event was held at St Andrews Anglican Church (2700 Portage) and attended by more than 100 people.

FF International promotes friendship and understanding by bringing people together from all over the world. It is not a travel club, but the core activity is travelling in groups to stay with members of FF clubs in other countries. It is founded on the idea that wherever you may go, people are people and differences in culture and language need not create barriers.

The visit for this particular group included time at the Journey to Churchill exhibition

at the Assiniboine Park Zoo, Festival du Voyageur, curling, welcome and farewell dinners, and free time to explore.

The goal of the week-long trip was, in part, to expose the southerners to a real Winnipeg winter. And although it wasn't quite as wintry as they may - or may not - have hoped, they certainly got a taste of what it is like for those of us from down under who have made this place our home.

For more information about Friendship Force International, visit these websites:

www.friendshipforcemanitoba.org

www.friendshipforcewinnipeg.org

Article and photos by Jenny Gates



Ti-Bert gives guests a taste of the Festival Du Voyageur

FINAL REMINDER: PASSPORT RENEWALS AND ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT

Do you need to schedule a **passport interview** with consular officers from the Australian High Commission? Interviews will take place on Friday April 28 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at 201 Portage Ave. 18th Floor (Regus Business Centre). Interview spaces are limited, and anyone wanting to book an appointment must do so online at this link: canada.highcommission.gov.au/otwa/events.html.

Are you a **graduate** of an Australian university, vocational or training institution, or an exchange teacher to or from Australia? Then you are invited to attend the **Alumni Networking Reception** in the evening of Thursday April 27 6:30 pm at Miss Browns, 288 William. If you want to attend this outreach event, RSVP by Thursday April 6 to this email: canadian.alumni@dfat.gov.au

Got any questions? Contact Jenny at info@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-228-9959.

NEW INFO as of
APRIL 25 2017

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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



This edition of the *Yarn* comes to you thanks to the assistance of former editor, Jenny Gates.

Our collaboration became necessary when it was apparent that I was going to be computerless for longer than I bargained.

You see a week ago I experienced a problem with a usb drive/memory stick - suddenly lost two folders! So I took the stick and laptop in to the "shop" to see what could be done. Trying not to appear too panicked (or clueless) I explained the problem and the importance of finding the misbehaving folders sooner rather than later. My fixit man started diagnosing the situation as I left just before closing time. Next day I phoned to check on progress - no answer - left a message - stopped by the store - not open!? Same thing on Saturday. Prayed on Sunday. But alas, same thing Monday - left a note under the door: "Please call" I begged. Tuesday afternoon he did - Phew!! Computers aren't alone in being susceptible to bugs. Anyway, at time of going to press I still don't have it back, but at least I know he's back onto it.

So "thank you" Jenny for willingly stepping up! And to this month's other contributors.

what's on

Aussie and Kiwi books, tv shows, movies and other things in Winnipeg and Manitoba

On the shelf (McNally Robinson)

Middle School: Escape to Australia (James Patterson, Daniel Griffo) - \$18.49 - In the newest installment of James Patterson's bestselling Middle School series, everyone's favorite underdog hero Rafe Khatchadorian is headed to the dangerous wilds of Australia!

Indigenous Homelessness: Perspectives from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand (Evelyn J Peters, Julia Christensen, Paul Andrew) - \$34.95 - Essays in this collection explore the meaning and scope of Indigenous homelessness in the Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

(more on page 3)

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Great to wake up this morning to sun streaming through the south facing windows, and with all the snow and ice finally gone from the back yard. Like Charlie, I take the time to feed a variety of wild birds over the winter, and we have our usual host of junkos stuffing themselves on ground-fed millet before they head off much farther north.

It was a great brunch that Jenny organized at Miss Browns, and nice to catch up with so many of you again.

Our Anzac Day service is being held later this month, and thank you again to Gordon for arranging this special event. I trust that we will have a great turnout for this special day.

Right now, I am heading outside for some sunshine, and maybe to clean up the usual detritus from winter. As Dan Rowan said on Laugh-in, "Look that up in your Funk and Wagnalls."

Enjoy your spring.

Peter



Twenty one members of the DUCW enjoyed a most fantastic brunch at **Miss Browns** on Sunday March 19. Not only was the food delicious, but the service was great, the atmosphere fun and friendly, and we had the opportunity catch up and meet some long standing and newer members. Big thanks to Jenny and Steve at Miss Browns - you know we'll be back! Photo: Jenny Gates.

NZ, Bali, Thailand, and beyond!

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Extreme coral bleaching

Parts of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) will never fully recover from repeated bleaching of its corals, caused by spikes in the water temperature, scientists say. Professor Terry Hughes of James Cook University and colleagues analysed the impact of three major bleachings in the past two decades on Australia's reef. The research confirmed last year's event was the worst on record. [Read more online]



Night parrot sighting

A night parrot has been photographed in WA, adding another twist to the mysterious history of the species that was presumed extinct until it was rediscovered in Qld four years ago. The first verified sighting of the bird in WA for almost 100 years, the discovery was made by a group of four friends from Broome who have dedicated the better part of seven years to locating the bird, trekking into likely habitats, and listening for unusual bird calls. [Read more online]



What is your floral emblem?

Native flowers are part of our cultural heritage and vital to sustaining Australia's unique ecosystems. About 21,000 species of native flowering plants are celebrated in festivals and gardens nationwide. Nine are officially recognised as national, state, and territory floral emblems, and they feature alongside Australia's bird and mammal emblems on official coats of arms. [Read more online]

Four'N Twenty spices things up

A new Four'N Twenty pie flavour is asking the question, "Can you handle the heat?" The new pie is chilli beef and comes with a warning on the pack saying "Caution, Hot & Spicy!" Developed with adventurous eaters in mind, Chilli Beef pie is slow-cooked for 8 hours and 100 per cent Australian beef. Next time you're in Oz, you'll be able to pick them up at petrol and convenience stores.



newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted

Thanks, Murray Ball

Footrot Flats creator Murray Ball has died aged 78 after a battle with Alzheimer's, but his ink has left an indelible mark on the New Zealand landscape. Ball was "funny and goofy and generous, and incredibly serious about inequality". A prolific cartoonist, "Footrot Flats captured the true essence of NZ farm life. But farm life is virtually the same the world over, hence, it



quickly became a household icon both here and abroad." Ball was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2002 for services as a cartoonist. [Read more online]

The jokes on you!

Two Kiwi April Fool's Day jokes have made the NZ Herald's top 5 list, including NZ police bunnies. Courtesy of Waikato District Police, who announced their new crime fighting units. Apparently, the bunnies are "specially trained to sniff out stolen jewellery during search warrants ..." and "... they really have a nose for it." Good one, officers! [Read more online]

First NZ degree in vegan cuisine

Hugo Hughes is the first graduate from AUT's culinary arts school to specialise in vegan cooking. As a vegetarian himself and then a vegan, he convinced his tutors to let him focus entirely on vegan cooking. "In one of my exams I made tofu from scratch." Okay, now that's worth a degree all by itself! [Read more online]



what's on

continued...

On Netflix

Mystery Road (Oz) – An aboriginal detective returns to the Outback to investigate the murder of a teenage girl.

The Interview (Oz) – An excellent thriller that will keep you guessing.

Pete's Dragon (filmed in NZ) – 10-year-old orphan who says he lives in the woods with a giant, friendly dragon.

Wentworth (Oz) – Contemporary revival of a classic Australian prison drama series

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Aussie searches for answers

Note: All quoted content is from the WFP article by Melissa Martin. [Link].

You might have read the article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* by Melissa Martin on Saturday March 25 about Australian Judith Lewis who is searching for her birth father. When Peter Munn told me about the article, I wondered if there was any way we could help. Probably a long shot, but you never know who reads our newsletter, so at least worth a try.

First thing I did was contact Melissa to see if we could run parts of the story in the *Yarn*, and through her, I contacted Judy in Australia. Judy then sent me the two photos you see here, and thanked us for helping tell her story.

She already has a few leads – Olga’s teacher colleagues, members of the Ukrainian community at Fisher Branch where Olga’s parents Henry and Mary Husack farmed for 47 years from around 1926, and, of course, the WFP article – so while Judy waits to see if those turn up anything, let me tell you a bit about her story.

“In 1957, a 30-year-old schoolteacher from Fisher Branch arrived in Australia, ostensibly on a teaching tour and stayed for seven months. Near the end of her trip, a local newspaper clipping trumpeted her visit.”

“Yet by the time that newspaper was published, [Olga] Husack was already carrying a secret. In Sydney, she had lived at a home for unmarried mothers. In January 1958, she’d given birth to an infant daughter, and placed her for adoption.

“She named the baby Judith and left the birth father’s name blank on the documents.”

“Husack would have been about five months pregnant when she left her teaching job in Sandy Lake and travelled to Australia. When she returned to Canada, she evidently told no one about the baby.

“Lewis, meanwhile, grew up happy ... in Papua New Guinea They were loving parents, and [Judy’s] memories of her childhood home are warm ones.”

Judy did eventually locate her birth mother in Manitoba, and in 1996, they met in Vancouver. Olga didn’t reveal the name of Judy’s

Olga Husack at her retirement party.



all party week-end ers

Toowoomba's will be the Sunday. Mrs. Alisa

M. Kendall, led by her Miss M. Cuthipswich, spend three day in Mel-Tasmania. Toomba teenage Jennings, le, Midgk, so completed at Stuart'sbanc, at the last year, inegin a nurses' the Mater Brisbane in uly.

nt worker for land Country Association State presi- H. Sterneck, will leave in June on North Queens- will visit her and daugh- and Mrs. J. at Atherion

with an allergy to the liquid type of polish, here is a safe way to colour your nails. Not with false finger-nails—but thin, self-adhesive strips of colour with curves to fit your cuticles at one end and tips to trim to the length of your nails. They are waterproof, detergent - proof, and they last about as long-as-nail-varnish. You don't need a remover, the colour just peels off.

Mrs. Reg Phelps, accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. James Harris, and her granddaughter, Jennifer, left Toowoomba this week on a holiday visit to Caloundra. Messrs. Phelps and Harris will join them for the Easter vacation.

Engaged



TEACHER ON WORLD TOUR



Although the Australian and Canadian education standards are similar, facilities for teachers and students in Canadian schools are superior to those in Australia.

This is the opinion of visiting Canadian schoolteacher. Olga Husack, of Fisher Branch, Manitoba.

Miss Husack has been in Australia for Queensland for eight days, as part of her around the world tour. For five weeks she

While in Queensland she is visiting Heron Island and the South Coast, and will leave Melbourne on April 6 for England and the Continent.



Olga Husack was featured in an Australian newspaper article in 1957, and according to her daughter Judy, is how her teacher colleagues would remember her.

birth father, and when Olga died in 2001, Judy’s “... best hope of ever finding her birth father died with her.”

As Judy said, “It’s just wanting to know things. ... I’d love to know what my father looked like. When I met Olga I saw a slight resemblance, but not a strong resemblance. I suspect I looked more like him.”

Ultimately, Judy’s hoping someone in

Manitoba will remember something that can help. “And if not, well, at least [she] knows she tried. Searching doesn’t always find answers, but there will never be answers if you don’t ask.”

If you have any information or suggestions for Judy, contact the Club at info@downunderclub.mb.ca.

– Jenny Gates

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'Trans-shipping' fish cargo dangers Pacific

An environmental group dedicated to ocean conservation is warning Pacific nations to be alert to the dangers of what's called trans-shipping, which it says can be used to mask illegal fishing activity.

Trans-shipping means fishing boats can stay at sea for an extended period of time, in some cases more than a year, by transferring their stock to another boat and receiving fuel and supplies.

The US-based group, Oceana, said that practice could often involve the laundering of fish, human rights abuses, and labour violations.

Its senior campaign director, Beth Lowell, said trans-shipping was a huge problem around the world and it was also likely to be happening in the Pacific due to its large tuna fisheries.

"There is definitely some suspicious areas of trans-shipment in the central west Pacific area which needs some further investigation to see what's happening. Is it legal? Is it hiding legal activity?"

Mr Lowell said trans-shipping needed to be banned and fishing vessels need to be tracked and monitored. – Source Radio NZ

Whanganui River granted personal identity

A great river of bloody and exploratory history involving many Māori warrior-British army battles in the 19th century is so etched in New Zealand history that it has been given a personality.

Parliament last month granted it the same legal rights as a human in an effort to enshrine the waterway's ancestral status of a local Māori tribe.

The Whanganui, today a wondrous river passing through stretches of pasture, dense fern and forest, is on the east coast of the North Island about 445km south of Auckland. The decision was met with tears of joy from hundreds of tribal representatives

when their bid was declared successful.

Gerrard Albert, the lead negotiator for the Whanganui tribe said: "The reason we have taken this approach is because we consider the river an ancestor and always have.... We have fought to find an approximation in law so that all others can understand that from our perspective treating the river as a living entity is the correct way to approach it, as an indivisible whole, instead of the traditional model for the last 100 years of treating it from a perspective of ownership and management."

The tribe from Whanganui has fought for 160 years for the river, also known as Te Awa Tupua, to be recognized as their ancestor. The new status means that if someone were to harm the river in any way, there would be no legal difference between that and harming a member of the tribe.

Australia addressing Muslim radicalization creeping into childhood education

The Australian Government has spent millions since the London bombings of 2005 on programs and projects to counter radicalism in its Muslim population, yet the threat appears to be growing. What went wrong? Well, frankly, everything – from the basic premise of what leads and drives radicalization to what contains and neutralizes it.

The fundamental flaw in the Government's counter-radicalization policy is that it has relied heavily on Muslim community leaders to understand the roots of radicalization. Not only are the Muslim leaders no experts, but they are also distant from the younger generation of Muslims who undergo an identity crisis triggered internally by Australian society (which functions contrary to their beliefs) and externally by sophisticated propaganda which they digest over social media.

The result is an obviously misdirected counter-radicalization strategy focusing on sponsoring 'liberal' Islamic education, training for Imams, and the opening up of Islamic institutes at universities to promote research and dialogue.

Opening up new Islamic institutes and publishing liberal Islamic texts has absolutely no measurable impact on radicalism – thick intellectual texts are not read by majority of the Muslim youth. And there is little evidence that Imams have much to do with growing radicalization, given that groups like al Qaeda and ISIS tend to bypass structures and hierarchy to reach directly to recruits.

Australia "weak" in UN probe of Myanmar

The Turnbull government has refused to back an international investigation into

atrocities against Rohingya Muslims despite a motion passed in the Senate urging Australia to call for a United Nations commission of inquiry.

Australia's statement at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva called for Myanmar to conduct its own investigation with international help into what the UN says could amount to ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in the country's western Rakhine state, home to more than one million Rohingya.

Human rights investigator denounces Myanmar's "long-standing persecution" of the Rohingya minority amid a violent military crackdown that has sparked international outcry as well as accusations of crimes against humanity and possible ethnic cleansing.

But Yanghee Lee, the United Nations special envoy for Myanmar, called for a UN inquiry, the strongest form of intervention the council could take, citing evidence that Myanmar may be seeking to "expel" all ethnic Rohingya from the country where they have been living for generations.

"I heard allegation after allegation of horrific events like these – slitting of throats, indiscriminate shootings, setting alight houses with people tied up inside and throwing very young people into the fire, as well as gang rapes and other sexual violence," Ms Lee told the 47-member council.

Human rights groups condemned what they called Australia's weak position at the council, describing already established investigations into the violence by Myanmar as a whitewash.

On February 16, Australian senators passed a Greens motion without division calling on Myanmar to assert the religious and ethnic equality of all of its people, including Rohingya, and urging the Australian government to consider pushing for a UN commission of inquiry into abuses in the Buddhist-majority country. Scott Ludlam, who proposed the motion, described what was happening to Rohingya as "devastating".

Australia's human rights policy has literally been at sea for so long with refugee boats that Canberra seems to now instinctively adopt the preferred policy of rights violating Asian nations.

Read more 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. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Godwit

Hudsonian godwit

Limosa haemastica

These shorebirds belong to the Sandpiper family and, depending where you are, may be seen in the company of curlews, whimbrels, dotterels, sandpipers, stilts, golden plovers, heron and, of course, seagulls and terns. Their long, slightly upturned bill allows them to probe deep into the soft shoreline and detect worms, larvae, crustaceans and mollusks. Their English name "godwit" is thought to imitate their call; *Limosa* is Latin for "muddy", which could refer to their colour or habitat.

In Manitoba we can observe the marbled godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) near our lakes, rivers and marshes, e.g., Delta Marsh and Oak

Hammock Marsh. Australia hosts the black-tailed, bar-tailed and Hudsonian godwits, of which the former is more likely to be found inland. The bar-tailed also feeds in New Zealand.

Bar-tailed godwits have recently been confirmed to be the record holders for the longest non-stop leg of their migration flight – around 12,000 km! To do that they need fuel to burn, so they double their body weight with fat.

Growing up in the Sandgate area of Queensland, we would see large flocks of bar-tailed godwits feeding on the low-tide mudflats. On a recent visit, there seemed to be much fewer – a local theorized that the popularity of kite-boarding is scaring them off. Further south around Moreton Bay, at Cleveland, a major planned harbour development is currently on hold due to concerns for the Russian bar-tailed godwit.

- with info from Wikipedia

OVERSEAS TAX OBLIGATIONS

The Australian Government has introduced changes relating to **Higher Education Loan Program** (HELP) and **Trade Support Loan** (TSL) repayment obligations. Under these changes, your first repayment against your HELP and TSL loan will commence from 1 July 2017 based on your worldwide income for the 2016–17 income year.

Similarly to if you were living and working in Australia, if you live and work overseas and earn worldwide income that exceeds the minimum HELP and TSL repayment thresholds, you will be required to make repayments against your loan. The two main changes introduced involve:

- Updating your contact details if you have an intention to, or already reside overseas for 183 days or more in any 12 months.

- Lodgment of your worldwide income or a non-lodgment advice.

Your debt will continue to be indexed each year until it is paid. You can make additional voluntary repayments from overseas at any time to reduce the balance of your debt. These repayments will not reduce any compulsory repayment obligations you may have.

If you already live overseas, you will need to update your contact details no later than 1 July 2017. You must continue to update your contact details as long as you reside overseas through our online services via myGov.

For more information, visit the Tax Office website. <https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/study-and-training-support-loans/overseas-repayments/>



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Papua confirms closing of Australian refugee detention centre

Papua New Guinea has confirmed it has closed an Australian immigrant detention center on Manus Island that processed applications for asylum.

Papua New Guinea Supreme Court judge, Salamo Injia, said the court agreed to a request from the Papuan government to close the center in compliance with a judicial order passed in April 2016. Radio New Zealand reported this followed a lawsuit against the Papuan government for illegal detention. It was filed by more than 700 asylum seekers and refugees.

The press office of the Australian Department of Immigration, however, refused to comment on the closure. Judge Injia said the immigrants – around 880 according to official data from March 6 – were relocated to the naval base where the detention center was located.

United Nations and human rights groups have criticized these detention centers for their rights abuses against the detainees.

Tonga gets crisis centre for women and children violence victims

A plaque recognizing efforts to end domestic violence by the Women and Children Crisis Centre in Tonga was presented last month to staff on behalf of the United States Pacific Command and the Nevada National Guard.

At the ceremony was in Nuku'alofa, U.S. Ambassador Judith Cefkin made the point that this NGO works independently outside of the government to advocate for the human rights of women and children, gender equality and to end all violence against them, while offering free counseling and legal services.

“We know that domestic violence is a problem around the world and also in the Pacific,” she said. “Women are vulnerable to it and victims need assistance of the type that the WCCC is offering... Raising awareness is the first step to stop the cycle of violence and to raise the stature of women in communities. I want to commend the Centre on its excellent support for women and children in Tonga.”

The Centre, represented by staff team leader Lesila To'ia, expressed their gratitude to the Ambassador, delegates and team from the US Pacific Command and the Nevada National Guards for recognizing the WCCC's fight to end domestic violence not only in Tonga, but in the region and internationally.



The tale of a croc tail

I headed into town after work this afternoon to the Central Market and visited the game meat stall. On Fridays the market stays open til later at night.

I bought some croc tail meat. It was around \$30/kg, and the fillet came out to ~\$8. I guess it looks white like chicken meat, but the texture is more like a really dense fish – swordfish or tuna but without the flaking you get with fish fillets. It wasn't stringy like chicken can be.

I stir fried it with peanut oil, ginger, garlic, red chili, kang kong (type of Asian leaves), and green beans. It was tasty enough but the meat itself doesn't have a strong flavour at all. I reckon next time I'll try marinating it in something first for a while.

All in all it was a successful experiment!

– Eddie Powell

PS: accompanied by Japanese beer also bought from the market.

The Southern Yarn

May 2017



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

SUMMER & FALL 2017

Stay tuned for further details on these upcoming events:

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Pool Party
Golf Day*

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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Our annual Anzac Day ceremony, with veterans and several special guests.

A special remembrance

Perhaps 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 29 was no exception. The event consisted of the formal parade, followed by a potluck dinner, guest speaker and social evening.

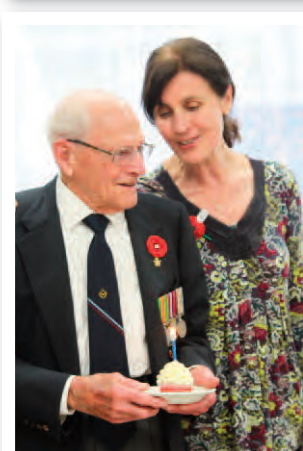
The formal parade was organized by parade marshal, Gordon Keatch, and attended by approximately 50 club members and guests. Special guests included the Hon. Consul for Turkey, Mr. Gurcan Kocdag, Ms. Louise Murray representing the Australian Embassy in Ottawa, LCol (ret'd) Art Brown RCAF from the Memory Project and 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. Wreaths were laid at the cenotaph by Mr. Kocdag, Ms. Murray, and Peter Munn (on behalf of the Down Under Club of Winnipeg).

Art Brown's presentation, "Canadians at Gallipoli", enlightened us on the involvement of and the role played by the Newfoundland Regiment at Gallipoli and subsequent campaigns. He pointed out that since Newfoundland didn't join confederation until 1949, they were not actually Canadians when serving alongside the ANZACs.

Thanks to the many folk who provided delicious dishes for the meal following and to Debbie Griffiths for, once again, making and decorating a special cake. Thanks also to the helpers who stepped up to set out the meal and to assist with cleanup afterwards. The three two-up games were fun - we have a few new "converts" to the game - and Aussie chocolates were hotly contested prizes.



Photos by Brian Hydesmith



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



New Zealand sent more men to fight in the First World War per head of population than any other nation. Of those killed, almost a third were buried half a world away in unmarked graves. Following the war, subscriptions were raised to construct the Auckland War Memorial Museum. The Museum opened in 1929 and became a symbolic meeting place for Aucklanders to honour and commemorate the fallen. [Link]

Guest speaker, Art Brown, at our DUCW ANZAC remembrance this year mentioned that last year he biked across Australia – all the way down to Albany. He highly recommends the award winning National Anzac Centre – “one of Australia’s most important cultural pilgrimages. Located within Albany’s heritage listed Princess Royal Fortress, the centre overlooks the actual harbour from which over 41,000 men and woman departed Australia for the Great War. Immerse yourself in the Anzac Legend and follow personal stories through state of the art technology, multimedia and historic artefacts. Prepare to remember, learn and explore.” [Link]

This month we get to know their excellencies Daniel Mellsop, of New Zealand, and Tony Negus of Australia, our High Commissioners to Canada, on page 4; as well as “troglodytes” (Birds I view, p.6). Thank you to our contributors this month: Judy, Jenny, Peter, Murray and our advertizers.

what's on

Aussie and Kiwi books, tv shows, movies and other things in Winnipeg and Manitoba

Online

Darryl: An Outward Bound Story (web series – NZ) – not sure when this one might be available generally online, but keep an eye out for it and let us know if and when you see it.

Please email us at info@downunderclub.mb.ca with other suggestions to include in this monthly column.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



It is my contention that April and early May generally bring the nicest outdoor weather in Winnipeg's weather menu. Warm days (especially in comparison to the still remembered winter freezes), no bugs outside to bother us, the return of songbirds from down south, golf courses with flags on the greens, and our general feeling of well-being in being able to get outside again without a parka. And of course, the barbie being bought into more common use. Enjoy!

There will be further reports in the Yarn, however I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the great success of our annual Anzac Day ceremony. Judy Powell and Charlie were overseers of the event, which drew about 55 people, many of them new to the club. As we first thought when Jenny was coordinating with



the Australian High Commission, the proximity of passport interviews with our Anzac Day event, and the advertising coverage through many channels, gave us an opportunity to meet up with many people whom we had not had the opportunity to meet before. There were some great stories of how downunder people had eventually moved to Winnipeg, and how Canadians' visits to Australia and New

Zealand, including in some cases to Anzac Day ceremonies, had encouraged them to join our service. Thank you to Gordon, and Reverend Flower, for leading the service. Thank you to those who jumped in and helped with the meal details, and the cleanup of the kitchen after the event. Plus, a big, big shout out to Jenny, who invested a great deal of time in coordinating and assisting with many details of the passport interviews, and the people who used this service. And of course, to the Australian High Commission staff who we were delighted to welcome to Winnipeg again, great people, and we look forward to meeting with them again.

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OzHarvest doing their bit

Food Australia reports that the Australian food charity has opened the country's first 'rescued food supermarket', located at 147 Anzac Parade, Kensington, New South Wales

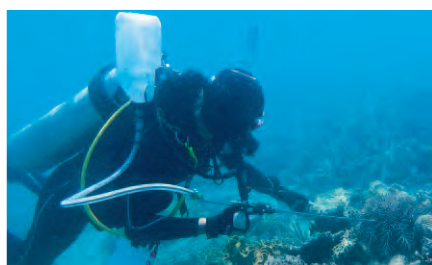
OzHarvest is inviting anyone who is in need of food, but low in cash, to shop at the supermarket by "taking what you need and giving if you can". Founder and Chief Executive Officer of OzHarvest, Ms Ronni Kahn, said the supermarket is a way for the charity to provide food to those who might be missed their existing services.

The supermarket will be stocked with surplus food donated to OzHarvest by the public. [Link]

'Every Man and his Dog'

If you're in the neighbourhood of Gundagai on May 20, you will see their Tractor Man event happening out front of the famous dog.

The aim is to roll out a canvas or two and invite the community and their pets to make paw prints on the canvas and of course have fun, say hi and spread a little awareness on how to help unwell children in need. Then on the 28th there's the Sundy in Gundy Terrier Races. [Link]



New weapon to defend coral

Australian Geographic reports that vinegar has been approved to combat the crown-of-thorns starfish. Field trials at the Great Barrier Reef showed that other reef life is not affected by the vinegar. [Link]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



It's amazing what's out there growing in the dark..

Meadows Mushrooms is saving a ton of energy while producing mushrooms. The Christchurch company produces 200 tonnes of mushrooms a week, mainly for the New Zealand market, with each one incurring an energy cost.

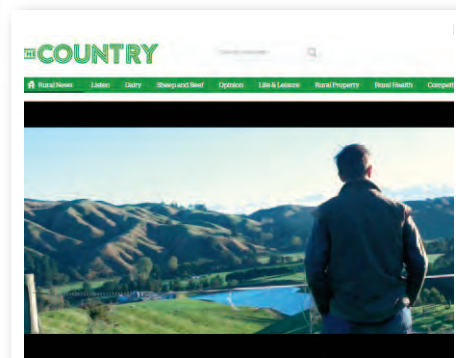
Meadows have already banked savings of almost 4.8 GWh per year from its energy efficiency plan - worth almost \$500,000. The company has saved about 20 per cent of its annual energy spend while increasing production.

They have done so after, in 2014, partnering with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and working with energy experts Enercon to identify energy consumption and savings opportunities. [Link]



Nowhere near Gundagai ...

The Sign of the Kiwi, originally called Toll House, is a small café and shop at Dyers Pass on the road between Christchurch and Governors Bay. It was built in 1916-17 by Harry Ell as a staging post and opened as a tearoom and rest house. It has a Category I heritage classification by Heritage New Zealand and is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. The building was closed some time after the 22 February 2011 Christchurch earthquake and it wasn't until 23 January 2017, six years later, that it opened again. Although located within the burned area, the building was not damaged by the 2017 Port Hills fires a month later. [Link]



The video that blew away the crowd at Dairy Awards

An inspiring video from 2017 New Zealand Dairy Trainee of the Year Clay Paton blew everyone away at Saturday night's New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards... and it's easy to see why it picked up Best Video Award for Clay too! Check it out and learn his Canadian connection to Nelson BC. [Link]

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Our High Commissioners

Following are the official bios for our High Commissioners in Ottawa. We look forward to welcoming them both here to Winnipeg so we can get to know them even better.

His Excellency Daniel Mellsop, New Zealand High Commissioner to Canada

Daniel Mellsop was appointed New Zealand High Commissioner to Canada in February 2016. He is concurrently High Commissioner to Jamaica.

A career diplomat, he previously worked in the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, working on a wide range of issues from trade negotiations to counter-terrorism. Previous appointments included postings to the New Zealand embassies in The Hague and Seoul, and Head of the International Branch at the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Mellsop attended the University of Waikato in New Zealand where he studied Korean and Economics, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Management Studies with honours.

Mr Mellsop is joined in Ottawa by his partner Jane Hooker and two children. He and his family are passionate about embracing the great Canadian outdoor lifestyle.



His Excellency Tony Negus AO APM, Australian High Commissioner to Canada

Tony Negus took up his appointment as Australian High Commissioner (Ottawa) in February 2015. He previously served in the Australian Federal Police for 32 years and most recently as its Commissioner from 2009-2014.

In 2016 Mr Negus was named in the Australia Day Honours List as an Officer in the



Order of Australia (AO). He has also been awarded the Australian Police Medal (APM) in 2005.

Mr Negus has been awarded several international awards, including the INTERPOL Medal in 2014 in recognition of his significant contribution to global safety and security, the Indonesian National Police Meritorious Service Star in 2012, and the International Police and Public Safety 9/11 Medal (USA) in 2012.

Mr Negus holds a Masters of Public Policy and Administration from Charles Sturt University, a Graduate Diploma of Executive Leadership from the Australian Institute of Police Management, and has attended a Harvard University leadership program. Mr Negus is married with three children.



THANK YOU to Louise Murray, Second Secretary and Consul, Connie Reid, Consular and Passport Services, and Akshata Rao, Manager Public Diplomacy, all from the Australian High Commission (Ottawa), who organised the Australian Alumni Outreach Event and passport interviews that were held here in Winnipeg on Thursday April 27 and Friday April 28. Louise stayed an extra day to be part of our ANZAC Day celebrations. We sincerely appreciate your efforts to connect with Aussies in Manitoba and provide us with important information and timely passport services. And special thanks to Jenny and Steve and everyone at Miss Browns for a wonderful evening of outreach and friendship. Photo: Jenny Gates.



DUCW's Gordon Keatch and Louise Murray, Second Secretary and Consul, Australian High Commission Ottawa, at the cenotaph.

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Australia: rethink China

By Bates Gill, ANU, & Linda Jakobson, *China Matters*

Australia needs to rethink its relationship with China. In addition to small but important policy changes, this also means thinking big – strategically and for the long term.

It is an undertaking that requires the full engagement of Australian society: politicians, public servants, military officers, business leaders, educational institutions, youth groups and community associations. China matters to Australia.

Australia is the G20 country that is most dependent on China in terms of export revenue. Nearly one-third of Australia's exports by value are sold to China. Chinese tourists are the largest group of visitors coming to its shores – more than a million each year – and the biggest spenders once they get here. An estimated 54% of Chinese demand for iron ore is met by Australian exports. Nearly one-fifth of Chinese students abroad choose Australia as the place to pursue their studies.

Chinese immigrants have been part of Australian society since the early 19th century. Today there are 482,000 Australian residents who were born in China and Mandarin is the second most commonly spoken language. Over the past four decades, 115 sister-city and sister-state relationships have formed between Australia and China; the list even includes a partnership between Wagga Wagga, a town of 63,000 residents, and Kunming, a provincial capital with 100 times that population.

But there are also downsides to closer interaction: the Chinese government can exert pressure on Australia's political leaders and citizens to accept its point of view, sometimes in ways contrary to Australian values. For example, the Chinese government is known to monitor Chinese visitors to Australia and even Australian citizens of Chinese descent—such as Chinese international students or adherents of Falun Gong—as to their activities, which might run contrary to Chinese interests.

So is Australia ready for a future where China presents enormous opportunities and challenges for Australians, and what would it look like?

Making China the focus of a regular whole-cabinet meeting would be a start. A meeting of this kind, which would focus on a comprehensive approach to China, has not been convened for over a decade. While the

Australian government's National Security Committee has approved a new China strategy, it is imperative to bring all federal ministers together to exclusively discuss China. Key federal government department secretaries, in turn, should regularly focus on China— *Source: Bates Gill & Linda Jakobson, China Matters*

China tempts NZ to boost infrastructure

There has been good debate in Wellington as to whether China's One Belt One Road Initiative (B&RI) is relevant to New Zealand, how New Zealand can engage with it and for what purposes. The Belt and Road Initiative is clearly a great 'enterprise' with significant implications for the global economic order but how does it relate to New Zealand?

To the extent that its scope and operational mechanisms have been made clear, B&RI is largely a network of partnerships for infrastructure, production and service projects between China and countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt to the northwest of the East Asian continent and the Maritime Silk Road to the south. The Belt and Road will presumably connect East Asia and Europe. But not everyone was certain about whether the Belt and Road would extend down under.

The B&RI comes at the time when New Zealand is well ahead among 'Western, developed countries' in forging dynamic trade and economic relations with China. In the words of Prime Minister Bill English, China is 'New Zealand's second-largest trading partner, its biggest market for export goods, a fast-growing services market and a small but increasingly important source of foreign investment'. Products, services, capital and people movement from China have become important to the working of the New Zealand economy.

New Zealand was the first among Western, developed countries to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China, and first to join the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), to name just two indicators of New Zealand's advanced economic relations with China.

Yet the strength of economic relations with China has led to debate in Wellington about how New Zealand is balancing its relations between China and other countries, particularly its traditional economic, political and security partners. Intensified strategic competition between the United States and China appears to take this challenge to a higher level. New Zealand has been under pressure to take a position on issues such as the South China Sea tensions and other regional security issues.

Australian citizenship crackdown threatens the vulnerable

The Turnbull government's proposed changes to citizenship laws, including tougher tests and a focus on social cohesion, could unfairly punish vulnerable migrants, community groups have warned.

Late last month Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Immigration Minister Peter Dutton unveiled tough new hurdles for prospective Australians, including a stricter English language requirement and an "Australian values" test. Applicants would also face a longer wait before being eligible for citizenship.

Mr Turnbull has challenged Labor to back the changes, framing it as a test of belief "in the values that have made Australia the remarkable nation that it is".

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten dismissed the Prime Minister's "desperate" challenge and renewed focus on immigration as politically motivated. However, he suggested Labor was open to supporting some of the proposals, including the English language emphasis and increased waiting period.

The new citizenship test could ask applicants whether they think female genital mutilation, family violence and arranged marriages are acceptable. —Source: Sydney Morning Herald

Fiji serves rural, maritime areas

Fijians living in rural, maritime and semi-urban areas now have easier access to social services thanks to three buses commissioned under a rights empowerment and cohesion project for rural and urban Fijians.

The ministry has been working closely with the Commissioner's office and the Provincial Council to identify hot spots where the services are needed most.

The buses are expected to be in one particular area covering several communities and villages in one district for two weeks.

People who use wheelchairs will have access to the services as well. Each bus has at least three average sized meeting rooms along with a rest room.

Last year, the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission joined the project. A partnership of the Fiji Police Force was established recently.

The Government of Japan provided a funding of about USD\$2.67million (FJ\$5.56m) for three years in support of the UN Development Program which facilitated the project. — *Source: Fiji Sun*



Variegated fairy wren [Link]



House wren [Link]

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

I think I had previously only heard the word “troglodyte” used as a term of derision. After deciding to “view” wrens this month, I now know that it is the genus name for our northern house wren. The word has a Greek root and basically means cave-dwelling, hence the derisive “neanderthal” connotation. Obviously it was applied to wrens because of their preference for holes to nest in, eg, ones made by woodpeckers, nesting boxes, tin-cans, old boots, etc.

For several years now we have enjoyed the return of this small bubbly songster to our backyard each spring to take advantage of one of the bird-houses. If you don’t see them at first, you can identify house wrens by their musically joyful bubbly outburst.

Cute as they are, Mrs wren is known to pierce the eggs of other birds who nest too close – less competition for the grubs, bugs, beetles and spiders. They winter in the southern States and Mexico.

Ten species of wren breed regularly in North America, including the winter wren, Berwick’s, Carolina, long-billed, marsh, sedge, rock and cactus wrens.

While in the Adelaide Hills back in February, I watched a superb wren family exerting their territorial rights. They are among the more commonly seen in Australia, although there are about 20 other species.

New Zealand had six known species of wren-like birds. Some have become extinct since predators arrived with humans. The rifleman wren is still found on both North and South Islands while the New Zealand rock wren is restricted to alpine areas.



Celebrating Commonwealth Day: A fine representation of the DUCW with Her Excellency Janice Filmon, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, at the Commonwealth Day event held March 14th, 2017, at Government House. L-R: Murray Burt, Betsy Burt, Sam Grimshaw, Gordon Keatch, HE Janice Filmon, Jenny Gates, Margaret Munn, Charlie Powell, Peter Munn, Leon Badali. Photo: GH staff.



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Terry Roberts

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THE DOWN UNDER
CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

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Maori survivor surprised at NZ govt's stance on child abuse inquiry

A Māori state abuse survivor says the government's refusal to hold an inquiry into historical abuse of children in state care is yet another let-down for the victims still dealing with their childhood trauma.

Eugene Ryder was only 11 years old when he went into state care, where he was beaten and abused. When he attended a panel discussion held at Victoria University in Wellington, calls for an independent inquiry were renewed. It followed high-profile calls for an inquiry by the Human Rights Commission, Iwi Leaders Forum, Māori Women's Welfare League and every political party, except National.

Prime Minister Bill English has said he doubted an inquiry would achieve anything. Mr Ryder said it showed the government still did not have his back, just as it did not when he was a child.

"I have never expected to feel any love from the government," he said. "I was surprised by their reaction given the amount of support and publicity for an independent inquiry.

"I take the current government as somewhat pragmatic and given that they announced \$2 billion going into what I would consider unfair treatment of care workers, that they would take the same stance with those that have been abused in state care."

Since Mr Ryder went public about being beaten and abused as a child in state care, he said a lot of people had been messaging him on Facebook offering support, but also sharing their own stories about how state abuse had impacted them and their whānau. He described his response as "shock and horror".

Between the 1940s and early 1990s, about 100,000 children were in state care. – Source: RNZ

The Southern Yarn

June 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.



downundercalendar

JULY

Annual All-Age Pool Party
Sunday 23rd July, 3 pm

at Jason and Lynley Davidson's new and improved backyard, 57 D'Arcy Drive, Winnipeg

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 19th August

at The Players, 2695 Park Royale Way (Inkster West).

Tee time is 11:00 am for 18 holes; or 1:15 pm for 9 holes. Call Peter Munn at 204 237-1805 to book your entry.

LATER...

High tea is still on the cards for the Fall. If you'd like to suggest a new social event, we're happy to help you plan it for the club!

RSVP

Let us know you are coming, RSVP to social@downunderclub.mb.ca, or call Judy at 204-275-7083 or look for the new **RSVP page** under EVENTS on our website.

Advertise in The Southern Yarn. Contact Jenny (228-9959, info@downunderclub.mb.ca) for all the rates. Send your submission by email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca



World War One's Magnum Opus: New Zealand soldiers watching the tanks advancing towards Messines Ridge in Belgium during the attack of 7 June 1917

The Battle of Messines

"Gentlemen, I don't know whether we are going to make history tomorrow, but at any rate we shall change geography" and at 3.10am, on 7 June 1917, Major-General Harington's press briefing became devastatingly true.

Underneath Northern Belgium's Messines Ridge, 454,000 kilograms of explosives, placed into 19 huge landmines, created one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history.

As the soundwaves reached London, up to 10,000 German soldiers were dead. The stupefied survivors quickly overrun by 80,000 well-drilled and led British, Aus-

100yearsago

history with antepodean connections

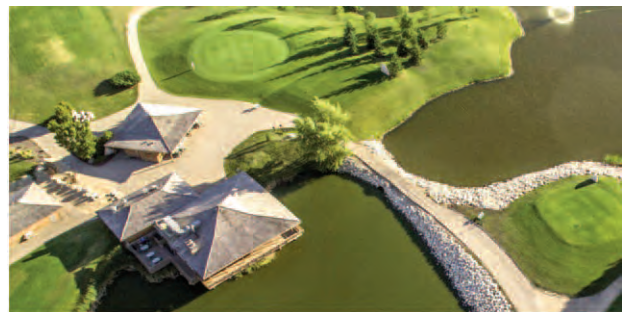
tralians and New Zealanders - marking the first time since Gallipoli that the NZ Division had fought side-by-side with the Australians.

In arguably the Great War's most brilliantly executed set piece, the prize of Messines was taken by the New Zealand Division before 7am and by the end of the first day, almost all objectives were secured. Yet Messines was a prelude for another battle; historians call it the Third Battle of Ypres though most people know it as Passchendaele. [Read more online]. (NZ Herald)

Golf anyone?

The Down Under Club is hosting its annual Golf Tournament at The Players course in north-west Winnipeg again this year. For our new club members, be assured this is a very casual tournament, played for fun, on a course that always suits the range of talents of our participants.

We offer the choice of playing 9 or 18 holes, with those playing the full 18 teeing off at 11 am, and then



joining up with those playing 9 holes at 1.15 pm. Afterwards we adjourn to the water-side verandah of the casual restaurant at the course.

The date is Saturday, August 19th. The street

address is 2695 Park Royale Way, Winnipeg (from the intersection of Route 90 and Inkster Boulevard, about 1 km west). Good weather is guaranteed, book early to avoid disappointment, by calling Peter, 204-237-1805.

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



Despite the beautiful start to summer here in Winnipeg, I still haven't hit the golf course! That will change very soon as I need lots of practice before the annual tournament in August – always a fun event (provided you don't take your game too seriously).

There have been five ships of the Royal Australian Navy named *HMAS Sydney*. The first one, *HMAS Sydney* (1912) was commissioned at Portsmouth on 26 June 1913. She served through WWI, escorting the first ANZAC convoy, and saw action in the Battle of Bitia Paka, Rabaul and in the Indian Ocean where she defeated Germany's *Emden* in the Battle of Cocos. She also has the distinction of being the first Australian warship to launch an aircraft. She is the subject of "Getting to know ..." this month (p. 4). We'll get to know some of her successors in coming issues of the *Yarn*.

It is always good to get feedback and news from readers, and I try to incorporate it when I can. So there are a few snippets also on p. 4. Thank you to other contributors this month – Jenny Gates, Peter Munn, Murray Burt and our advertisers.

BTW...

David Denesovych has several different maps to give away – call 204-269-0890

what's on

Aussie and Kiwi books, tv shows, movies and other things in Winnipeg and Manitoba

On stage

The Winnipeg Fringe Festival is on again from July 19 to 30, and the list of performers has just been announced. We haven't had a chance to scan through the list for the troupes and performers from down under who will be participating, but be sure to check out the July issue of the *Yarn* for all the Australian and New Zealand performers who will be on stage during the Festival.

Please email us at info@downunderclub.mb.ca with other suggestions to include in this monthly column.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



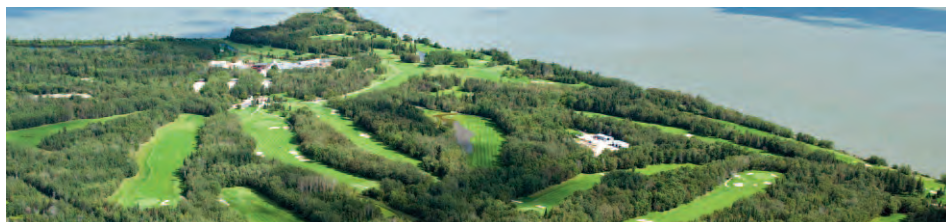
I have just come back from a week-end of golf at Hecla Island, 2 hours north of Winnipeg on Lake Winnipeg. It's a great course that was developed by bulldozing the fairways out of a forest setting alongside the lake, and it opened in 1977. Many views are spectacular, and will take your mind off a bad round very quickly. This golf tournament started as a company-sponsored event, roughly 38 years ago. The company left town, but the participants partied (oops, I meant golfed) on. Numbers dwindled, but for the past few years we have been at about 40, which seems to be just right. Many original participants now have their offspring golfing, and I have been fortunate to have 3 of my kidlings playing for some time now. This past weekend was 3 days of warmth and sunshine, and the few rain showers all

were in the wee hours. A great time was had by all. If you have never been to Hecla Island, maybe give it a try. There is a very nice hotel, special rates from time to time, and a great campground in the bush. There are also about 20 basic cabins, different sizes, including 6 "premium" cabins, that are a bit nicer than basic. Rates are dirt cheap, and can be reserved through MB parks reservation service.

(As a footnote, Margaret and I rented these cabins, or camped with a big tent, or in a small Econoline van we had, and holidayed with our 4 kids at Hecla for weeks at a time over a period of maybe close to 20 years.)

Hecla Marina also offers 4 regular cabins on the lake just down from The Gull Harbour Marina, and are renovating their 4-room motel in the same general area. As well, there is a neat B & B in historic Hecla village. For the ladies, the hotel has a great spa.

So that is my unpaid advertisement. As you can tell, I have an attachment to the place. Enjoy your summer!



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Rain or shine...

In September last year 3 men had to be rescued off Uluru / Ayers Rock after wandering where they shouldn't have. In December there were waterfalls tumbling down the sides, making it totally off limits. The Pitjan-tjatjara people do not want anyone on it at any time, although many tourists still insist on making the climb. Recently, drones have been used to offer a virtual tour – and a more respectful one. [Read more online.]



Shine or rain...

Down the track, in Coober Pedy, SA, it doesn't matter what the weather is doing. Much of the town is underground – except the drive-in theatre. Did you know: The name "Coober Pedy" comes from the local Aboriginal term kupa-piti, which means "boys' waterhole"? [Read more online].

Invictus Games

This year they will be held in Toronto, but in October 2018 Sydney gets the nod. So the Aussie



team were boosted by the recent visit by Prince Harry who established the event in 2014. The Paralympics-style event is the only international sporting event for wounded, injured and sick members of the armed forces. [Read more online].

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Who's looking at who?

Set in 80 hectares within 15 minutes' drive of Christchurch Airport, Orana Wildlife Park provides the ultimate animal adventure - up close and personal with the animals. Orana is internationally renowned for its involvement in zoo-based breeding programmes for endangered exotic and native species. When you visit, you are supporting their conservation work. [Read more online.]



Ride the rails to Whangarei

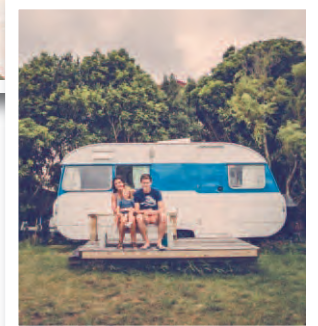
Perhaps unbeknown to Aucklanders, there are opportunities to take the train up to Whangarei. The lines between the two cities are predominantly used by freight rail, but travellers can ride these rails as part of a

charter trip. This particular ride on the 96-passenger Silver Fern railcar, built in 1974, was part of a three-night package from Pukekohe Travel. Passenger rail service to Whangarei ended in 1976. [More online here and <http://www.steamnorth.org.nz/>]



Tiny house, big view

Housing shortage and alternative lifestyle has pushed a couple to build a tiny house.



They started with a modest caravan, so the tiny house felt like quite a step up in size. It took three months before they could call it "home sweet home" but Simon Fathers and Ona Seney made it happen a couple of weeks ago. Their 7.2 metre long and 2.5 metre wide house is now sitting at Waihi Beach. The couple will move the house to Raglan this summer. They decided to build their own abode after they searched for their ideal home nearly a year ago. [Read more online.]

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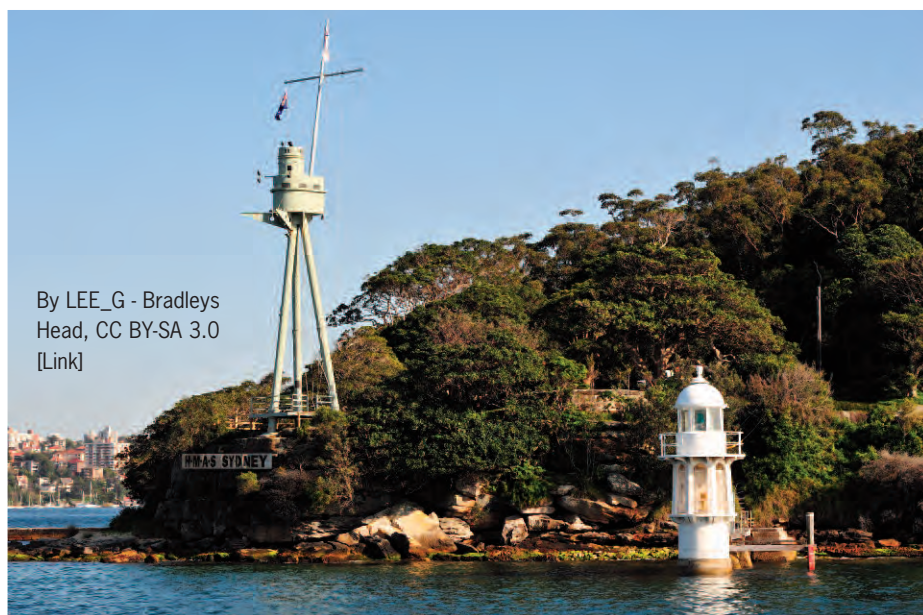
HMAS Sydney

The name Sydney is one of the most famous ever carried by an Australian warship. The first *Sydney* was a Town Class light cruiser; one of three ordered in 1910 which were part of the initial Australian fleet unit. The first cruiser laid down for the RAN was *Sydney* which was launched in August 1912 by Lady Henderson, wife of Admiral Sir Reginald Henderson. She was commissioned at Portsmouth on 26 June 1913 under the command of Captain John C.T. Glossop RN. She departed Portsmouth on 25 July 1913 and first arrived on the Australia Station at Albany on 19 September 1913. On 4 October 1913 she formed part of the Australian Fleet Unit that ceremonially entered her namesake harbour to a rapturous welcome from tens of thousands of spectators who turned out on the shores of the harbour to welcome the arrival of 'their' fleet.

Following a period spent in eastern Australian waters, *Sydney* proceeded to Singapore in March 1914 to meet and escort the two new Royal Australian Navy submarines, AE1 and AE2, which were en route to Australia from England. *Sydney* spent the remaining months of the pre-war period working up in Australian waters.

Following the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914, *Sydney* operated in New Guinea and Pacific waters and in the brief campaign against the German Pacific possessions during which she carried out a series of punitive patrols. Highlights during this period included the capture of Rabaul and the destruction of the Angaur Island Wireless Station.

In October 1914, *Sydney* and her sister ship *Melbourne* detached from the Flagship *HMAS Australia*, and returned to Australia to form part of the escort for the first ANZAC convoy which consisted of some 38 transports. The convoy sailed from Albany on 1 November 1914 and on the morning of 9



By LEE_G - Bradleys
Head, CC BY-SA 3.0
[Link]

November 1914 was steaming some 50 miles east of the Cocos Islands.

At about 0620 on 9 November, wireless telegraphy (W/T) operators in several transports as well as in the escorting warships received signals in an unknown code followed by a query from the Cocos Island W/T station, 'What is that code?' It was in fact the German cruiser *Emden* under the command of Captain Karl von Müller, ordering her collier Buresk to join her at Point Refuge to coal. Shortly afterwards, the Cocos Island telegraphists signalled 'Strange warship approaching' followed later by the same message prefixed by 'S.O.S.' - the international distress call. ... Long story short: the full-on engagement saw *Sydney* victorious and *Emden* incapacitated and aground. *Emden's* landing party had escaped with the island's schooner and made their way back to Germany, but the remainder of the crew, including many seriously wounded, were taken

aboard *Sydney*. Surveillance duties followed, until August 1917, when *Sydney* commenced a three-month refit at Chatham, during which the tripod mast now situated as a memorial at Bradley's Head, Sydney, NSW was fitted to her. Of more significance however, she was fitted with the first revolving aircraft launching platform to be installed in a warship.

Sydney was present at the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet at Scapa Flow on 21 November 1918.

Except for visits to New Guinea in 1922 and New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands in 1927, *Sydney* spent the remainder of her seagoing career in home waters, serving as Flagship of the Australian Squadron from September 1924 to October 1927. She paid off at Sydney on 8 May 1928 and on 10 January 1929 was delivered to Cockatoo Island for breaking up. [Read more online]

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Stamping out slavery in Australia's supply chains

The Australian Labor Party would establish an anti-slavery commissioner to help victims and also fight slavery overseas, leader Bill Shorten says.

"Unbelievably, an estimated 4,300 people are currently trapped in slavery right here in Australia," he says, and he has promised to introduce legislation to prevent slave labour being used in the global supply chains of Australian businesses if Labor wins the next election.

Labor would require Australia's biggest companies to produce annual reports on the steps they are taking to stamp out slavery in their supply chains, he said. It would also establish an anti-slavery commissioner to help victims of slavery in Australia, and to fight slavery overseas.

"Unbelievably, an estimated 4,300 people are currently trapped in slavery right here in Australia in exploitative criminal syndicates involved in forced labour, sex trafficking and debt bondage," Shorten said in a statement recently.

The pressure is on for Australia to legislate against modern slavery in its supply chains.



NZ launches 3D-printed rocket

Successful launch of low-cost rocket seen as bringing down barriers to space while also making New Zealand a hub

Rocket Lab, a Silicon Valley-funded space launch company, has launched the

maiden flight of its battery-powered, 3-D printed rocket from New Zealand's remote Mahia Peninsula.

"Made it to space. Team delighted," Rocket Lab said on its official Twitter account.

The successful launch of a low cost, 3D-printed rocket is an important step in the commercial race to bring down financial and logistical barriers to space while also making New Zealand an unlikely space hub.

The Los Angeles and New Zealand-based rocket firm has touted its service as a way for companies to get satellites into orbit regularly.

The Electron rocket lifted off from its launch site in Mahia, on the east coast of New Zealand's North Island on May 25, 2017. "Our focus with the Electron has been to develop a reliable launch vehicle that can be manufactured in high volumes. Our ultimate goal is to make space accessible by providing an unprecedented frequency of launch opportunities," said Peter Beck, Rocket Lab founder and chief executive in a statement. – Source: The Guardian

NZ deflects Manus asylum plea

The New Zealand government says it would only grant asylum to Manus Island detainees with Australia's consent. The 140 asylum seekers detained by Australia on the Papua New Guinea Island have asked New Zealand for asylum.

Ben Robinson Drawbridge reports that that Australia's refugee detention centre on Manus Island is due to close by November when the bulk of its 800-odd residents will be forced to settle in PNG. They say that country is too dangerous, but the New Zealand government said in a statement bringing them here would be Australia's decision.

"There has been no change to New Zealand's offer to Australia to resettle 150 off shore detainees, who have been approved as refugees. We are not considering entering into a separate arrangement directly with Papua New Guinea or Nauru. New Zealand takes refugees through the UNHCR process."

The UNHCR or the United Nations refugee agency said in a statement it would welcome New Zealand's involvement in a solution for the detainees.

"Australia remains responsible for all people transferred to Papua New Guinea and Nauru. A significant number of vulnerable people have been immensely damaged by these arrangements and are unable to remain in those countries, where settlement is impossible.

"New Zealand is one of the world's most

successful and established resettlement countries. In this context, UNHCR would welcome any opportunities for much-needed, long-term solutions on a one-off humanitarian basis."

The opposition Labor party in Australia says it would be open to New Zealand's offer, while the Labour party here said in a statement it would also offer resettlement if elected to government in September.

Pacific condemns Indonesia

The Pacific Island mostly Commonwealth nations of Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Nauru, Palau and the Marshall Islands delivered a hard-hitting joint statement last month condemning Indonesia's human rights violations, including crimes against humanity.

The nations voiced their displeasure at the Council of Ministers of the 79-member Africa Caribbean Pacific Group of States (ACP) and called for an eventual resolution that includes support of the right of West Papuan political self-determination.

The statement, made by Johnny Koanapo, a high-ranking member of the Republic of Vanuatu parliament and Parliamentary Secretary for the Office of the Vanuatu Prime Minister, transfixed the packed council room as he graphically described Indonesia's violations and West Papuans' 'slow-motion genocide'.

West Papua, the western half of New Guinea, the world's second largest island, has been under Indonesian rule since the 1960s.

Koanapo said that the seven Pacific nations were 'very concerned [that] the international community had neglected the voices of the Papuan people over the last 50 years. –Source: Pacific; ACP

Read more 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.



(Credit: WA Department of Agriculture and Food)

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Emus

John Williamson got it right about emus being fast runners – up to 50 km/h; but in his ballad “Old Man Emu” he has the male chasing the female. It is actually more likely the other way around – females aggressively compete for males. When they win their mate he’s the one left to incubate the eggs and raise the chicks.

Dromaius novaehollandiae is Australia’s largest living bird, by height – almost 2 metres – and worldwide is second only to the ostrich. They are well-adapted to the feast-or-famine seasons and will migrate accordingly. There’s a story from the early thirties when more than 20,000 emus crossed into West Australia and wreaked havoc on the wheat crop. The army was called in with machine guns but were out-smarted by their tough, athletic adversary. Less than 200 were killed before the army withdrew.

Tasmanian and King Island sub-species became extinct after white settlement. New Zealand’s moa suffered the same fate after the arrival of Polynesians. However, their kiwi is alive and well, and is actually more closely related to the emu. South America has the rhea.



Emu running (Credit: Mike Langford/AG)

An Emu Hunt

From “The Animals Noah Forgot” by A.B. (Banjo) Paterson

...
Now, the boss’s dog that had come from town
Was strange to the wild and woolly west,
And he thought he would earn him some great renown
When he saw, on the wastes of the open down,
An emu standing beside her nest.
And he said to himself as he stalked his prey
To start on his first great emu hunt,
“I must show some speed when she runs away,
For emus kick very hard, they say;
But I can’t be kicked if I keep in front.”
The emu chickens made haste to flee
As he barked and he snarled and he darted around,
But the emu looked at him scornfully
And put an end to his warlike glee
With a kick that lifted him off the ground.

...
And when, with an injured rib or two,
He made for home with a chastened mind,
An old dog told him, “I thought you knew
An emu kicks like a kangaroo,
And you can’t get hurt-IF YOU KEEP BEHIND.”

readerfeedback

your news and views

Dennis Woodford sent in a photo from the 1980s of his son Scott with crimson rosellas, and **Keith Vidal** reported the return of wood ducks to their nesting boxes on trees in the backyard – just up the bank from the Red River, Winnipeg.



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PNG church opens victim centre

St Mary's Home for vulnerable children, in Mt Hagen archdiocese in Papua New Guinea, will be open to vulnerable children forced out of the family home and onto the streets.

This new focus on domestic violence in Papua New Guinea has revealed the church at the forefront of providing for child victims.

In a country where Human Rights Watch estimates 70% of women are raped during their lifetime, the Archdiocese of Mount Hagen has built a care centre for vulnerable children, which its Australian designer says could be duplicated across the country.

News of the project comes as the 2015 Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, travelled to PNG to fire up domestic violence survivors and encourage them to change from victims to victors.

Ms Batty visited Lae, PNG's second-biggest city, to share her story of trauma and healing following the murder of her 11-year-old son Luke at the hands of his father.

"All our journeys are different but some things are the same, and we can get strength from each other, because we understand in ways other people never can," Ms Batty, a guest of the organization Femili PNG, said.

Femili PNG receives aid from the Australian Government and the private sector.

It works hand-in-hand with police and helps rescued women access appropriate services, such as safe houses, and assists them to navigate court processes.

In the PNG highlands the Mt Hagen archdiocese is completing a home at Ulga, close to Mt Hagen.

The St Mary's home, due to be opened soon, will provide accommodation, meals, education and general care for about 15 "at risk" children caught up in marriage breakdowns, physical and sexual abuse, poverty and sorcery, which is common in PNG. It's a start. – Source: The Catholic Leader

China's power and the future of Australia: will displaced US influence lead to conflict?

Donald Trump is not the cause of the United States' problems with China, but he makes them worse. His failings as President make it a lot less likely that over the next few years the United States will reach some kind of stable accommodation with the plain reality of Beijing's power and ambition.

Instead, the United States will likely stumble thoughtlessly into a war with China or ignominiously retreat from the region – or both.

This has big implications for how Australia and others in Asia think about future relations with China. Even if the United States does manage to reach the kind of arrangement necessary for it to stay constructively engaged as a major power in Asia, China will loom much larger – exercising more power and asserting more influence than any Asian power has ever done before.

It is increasingly likely that US influence will dwindle and China will take its place as the region's primary power – at least in East Asia. So how should Australia respond to China's growing capacity to interfere in its affairs and curtail its sovereign independence?

Part of the answer is for Australia to get closer to China. Some influential voices have argued that Australia needs to 'get real' about China's growing power – if Australia can deepen and strengthen its relationship with China, it will be able to influence China's policies on Australia and limit their impact on its independence and interests. These voices accept – reluctantly – that this might mean stepping back somewhat from its relationship with the United States.

Australia must get more engaged with China as Chinese power and influence grow. That means Australia must learn a lot more about how decisions are made in China, and how to shape them to its advantage. Canberra's priority ought to be shaping policies to

maximize its leverage in Beijing.

But to be coldly realistic, history tells us plainly how hard it has been for Australia to do more than simply nudge the policies of its allies. Moreover, Australia will never have the kind access in Beijing that it has enjoyed with its allies.

No matter how well it does, Australia's capacity to shield itself from Beijing's power by better diplomacy is going to be very limited. China will be able to shape Australia's actions and decisions with carrots and sticks to a degree that no country has ever been able to do before, except the United States and Britain. And China will likely be less generous with the carrots and more ruthless with the sticks. – Source: Excerpt from East Asia Forum; Hugh White, Professor of Strategic Studies at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University.

The Southern Yarn

July 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

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Sunday 23rd July, 3 pm

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Saturday 19th August

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Photo: AFL Canada

Plans are underway to launch the Winnipeg Bears Australian Football Club. And DUCW member Allan Sharman and friends are looking for 10 to 12 people to get the ball rolling.

Men and women of all ages and abilities are invited to attend the first ever Aussie rules football practice in Winnipeg – **Tuesday July 18 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm** at River East Collegiate (295 Sutton Ave).

Organisers are in regular contact with AFL Canada, and have also contacted the Irish

Association to see if there are any Gaelic footballers about.

"LIKE" their new Facebook page – https://www.facebook.com/events/154520591775188/?hc_location=ufi – for all the information about the inaugural practice, as well as upcoming events.

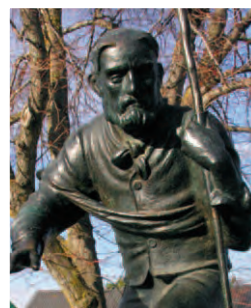
If you would like to be involved or are simply curious about the AFL, contact Allan at allansharman@gmail.com.

100yearsago

history with antepodean connections

In March 1855 shepherds searching for 1,000 missing sheep in the upper reaches of the Waitaki Valley apprehended suspected rustler James Mackenzie, one of New Zealand's first and most enduring folk heroes.

Caught red-handed, Mackenzie denied the theft, claiming he had been hired to drive the sheep to Otago. After escaping his captors, he walked 160 km to Lyttelton, where he was recaptured on 15 March. A Supreme Court found



Legendary sheep rustler James Mackenzie caught 4 March 1855

Mackenzie guilty, sentencing him to five years' hard labour.

Mackenzie escaped from his road gang twice, remaining at large for a few days each time. In September,

1855 a new magistrate reinvestigated his case and found flaws in the police inquiry and trial. Pardoned in January 1856, Mackenzie probably returned to Australia, but details of his later life are scarce.

The exploits of Mackenzie and his loyal dog 'Friday' left an indelible mark on the South Island high country. Canny pastoralists quickly realised the significance of the pass where he was found with the stolen sheep, and the open country beyond. This region was subsequently dubbed the Mackenzie Country. [Link]

online



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

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



On Canada Day (July 1st) many Canadians celebrated 150 years of confederation. We joined a few thousand of them at Portage and Main to be part of a record living Maple Leaf. Of course Canada and Canadians go back much further than 1867, so rather than offend over a date, I say "celebrate EVERY day" – this great nation and people are worth it!

We can celebrate Canada Day, but not the Canada Jay – not officially anyway. The government has decided not to endorse "whisky jack" as the national bird – yet. Too bad, I was seriously considering nominating *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* as our national microbe. Speaking of brewer's yeast, I learned that Labatt's (Brewing Co.) goes back 170 years! That got me wondering which brewers are the oldest downunder – see page 6.

This month we 'get to know' how the DUCW's communications work (p. 4); there's info about Scot/Aussie/Kiwi sheep rustler and escape artist James Mackenzie (p. 1); domestic fowl (Birds I view, p. 6); and so much more...

Thank you to other contributors this month – Jenny Gates, Peter Munn, Murray Burt and our advertisers.

what's on

Aussie and Kiwi culture we can celebrate here

On Stage

Watch out for the following productions from down under at the **Winnipeg Fringe Festival** from July 19 to 30 at various locations downtown. Visit www.winnipegfringe.com for show times and tickets.

- *The Ballad of Frank Allen* – **Australia**
- *Lovely Lady Lump* – **Australia**
- *Jon Bennett: How I Learned to Hug* – **Australia**
- *6 Quick Dick Tricks: A Dirk Darrow Investigation* – **Australia**
- *Patrick Hercamp & Jon Bennett in New Show, BUTT different* – **Australia**
- *Olive Copperbottom: A New Musical* by Charles Dickens and Penny Ashton – **New Zealand**

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



The weather we've had lately has left a lot to be desired.

Overcast skies, and rain on the weekends is not the norm for June in Winnipeg. And to make things worse, I am dealing with lovable animals, a.k.a. pests, that have taken up seemingly permanent residence in my back yard. We've had many red and occasionally grey squirrels that treat our address as their own personal space. Because of destructive behav-

iour, some have been transported to St. Vital park for a change of scenery. The latest generation I am dealing with has a habit of stealing my garden gloves, presumably to line his nest somewhere, which I have not yet discovered, so I am still missing my gloves.

The other 4-legged friend I am dealing with is one of several rabbits in the area. I had planted some beans and peas, though more out of hope than expectation, and when they started growing well, 'Bugs' decided to have a late-night feed of the leaves. So off to Home Depot for some chicken wire, to give the beans and peas some protection. Where is Elmer Fudd when you need him? So that is my start to summer. Enjoy yours!

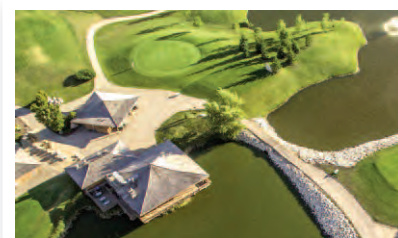
Golf anyone?

The Down Under Club is hosting its annual Golf Tournament at The Players course in north-west Winnipeg again this year. For our new club members, be assured this is a very casual tournament, played for fun, on a course that always suits the range of talents of our participants.

We offer the choice of playing 9 or 18 holes, with those playing the full 18 tee-

ing off at 11 am, and then joining up with those playing 9 holes at 1.15 pm. Afterwards we adjourn to the water-side verandah of the casual restaurant at the course.

The date is Saturday, August 19th. The street address is 2695 Park Royale Way, Winnipeg (from the



intersection of Route 90 and Inkster Boulevard, about 1 km west). Good weather is guaranteed, book early to avoid disappointment, by calling Peter, 204-237-1805.

Multi-country flights

Return economy airfares from Winnipeg to these down under locations:

3 Country Airfare Ticket C\$2374.00 p/p incl. all taxes
Australia, New Zealand & The Cook Islands!

Depart: Feb 1 - Jun 30, 2018, (book by 31st July 2017)

(this fare is quite often on sale for around C\$700 off the above rate, call us so we can check for any applicable seat sales)

4 Country Airfare Ticket: C\$2545.00 p/p incl. all taxes
Sydney/Brisbane OR Melbourne to Fiji, Samoa & Honolulu

Depart: Nov 1 – 30 2017, OR Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2018, (book by 31st July 2017)

This summer it is a bargain to go to Australia & then stopover in NZ, rather than flying Winnipeg to NZ return. Ask us about seat sale fares to Australia that give you as much time in New Zealand as you need.

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Carrot Vodka

Australian Food News reports: Two Australian women on a mission to reduce food waste have launched a new vodka made using carrots.

The pair behind the drink, Gen Windley and Alice Gorman, came up with the idea knowing that carrots grown by their husbands were going to waste when they did not meet supermarket cosmetic standards.

Wanting to stop waste, the women joined with a wine maker, Jason Hannary of Flinders Park Winery, to create a vodka made from carrots. [Link]



Look up, way up

Tourism Tropical North Queensland offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy and learn about the Lumholtz tree kangaroo. The Wildlife Habitat, a wildlife immersion experience in Port Douglas, provides a secure home to rescued tree kangaroos and other injured animals. [Link]



Power from the Sun

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) is funding the construction of 12 new solar power plants in Australia. These will triple the nation's large-scale solar power production. The investment is worth \$92m and is estimated to unlock almost \$1b of commercial investment, ARENA says. The largest plant will be built on Queensland's Darling Downs. There will be six plants in Queensland, five in New South Wales and one at Emu Downs near Cervantes in Western Australia.

ARENA said they would increase Australia's large-scale solar capacity from 240 megawatts to 720 megawatts, providing enough energy to power 150,000 average Australian homes. [Link]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Land of the Great White What?

Heavy snow is on the way for both islands this week, with highway closures likely, Weather Watch head analyst Philip Duncan says. "We're into the depths of winter now with

moisture meeting the cold next week ... Southland and Otago may see snow falling as low as around Dunedin and near or around Invercargill." [Link]



World's oldest sporting trophy

There were loud cheers, applause and even a few tears as Team New Zealand finally arrived home with the silverware everyone has been longing to see.

Hundreds of fans turned out at Auckland International Airport to welcome the team home after an earlier delay to their Emirates flight this morning.

As members of the team walked through the arrivals gate, there was a raucous applause as Team NZ chief Grant Dalton and helmsman Peter Burling raised the coveted America's Cup above their heads. [Link]



Top wine

A Bay syrah from Rod McDonald Wines has won the Champion Red Trophy for its Quarter Acre Syrah 2015 at the International Wine Challenge (IWC). The competition is well known for its rigorous judging process, which has led to the International Wine Challenge being considered the world's finest and most meticulously judged wine competition. This year, the 450 judges blind tasted and assessed 150,000 wines from 68 countries. [Link]

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Our Online Community

The DUCW has built up quite the community here in Winnipeg and beyond. And a lot of that has to do with our newsletter *The Southern Yarn*, which has been a going concern for 22 years.

The *Yarn* will continue in its current form (in print and online for a while yet, but for those of you who prefer to get your news and info online, there are other tools we are using to build our community even more.

WEBSITE as our longest serving online tool, this has everything you need to know about our history, events, how to become a member, and how to subscribe to the *Yarn*. It also has a blog with updates and important info posted on a regular basis.

FACEBOOK – we have been on Facebook for about 10 years, and currently have 160 people who ‘like’ and follow our page, including some from outside Canada. We try to post between 3 and 6 articles a day (linking, for the most part, to the ABC, SMH, NZ Herald, Stuff NZ and Radio NZ websites), and approximately half of those articles are read by our audience.

When something special is posted – such as the AFL coming to Winnipeg – that can boost our audience considerably. For example, that particular post helped us reach more than 1,000 people, compared to the usual 400 to 500 in a given week. Wow!

TWITTER – this very new addition to our toolbox is just starting to get noticed, and we try to post at least one Aussie and/or Kiwi mention a day.

NEWSLETTER – monthly issues are packed with interesting and informative articles, photos, stories, and various tidbits that keep the members of the DUCW connected and entertained. The online edition not only has a seventh page and is in full colour, but also includes links to more online content.

If you are not already getting *The Southern Yarn* on a monthly basis, you can subscribe to receive it by mail or e-mail. And if you are currently receiving the *Yarn* in your mailbox but would rather have it delivered to your inbox, just let us know.

So, what’s the big deal about being online?

It extends our reach to a wider audience and allows us to promote who we are, what we are about, the resources and contacts we have

available, and how we can help Aussies and Kiwis and their families, particularly those living in Winnipeg and Manitoba.

Building our online community has also helped build our physical community, and ensures the DUCW continues as a vibrant and valuable organisation long into the future.

How can you help?

1. Join our online community on Facebook and Twitter. Not only will you get daily posts about events down under and DUCW activities, but this will also let others see us online and

hopefully ‘like’ us themselves. And if you ‘like’ or comment on any of the posts, that will let us know what you enjoy reading.

2. Join our physical community. Not only is there a variety of events and activities on offer, but we have strong connections with the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions in Ottawa, which can often be very helpful.

3. If you think of anyone who would be interested in being part of our community, tell them about the Club and encourage them to contact us by email, phone [204-832-4405], or through any of our online tools.

4. Renew your membership every year so we can continue to meet the needs of everyone in our community.

5. Visit our website from time to time.

Building our community has many benefits, not the least of which is providing a deep and ongoing connection to Australia and New Zealand.

So, please take full advantage of all the tools at your disposal and help us continue to provide you with the information, assistance and community you need.

For more information, or if you have any questions or comments, contact me – or turn up at one of our next events and see first-hand what we are all about.

– Jenny Gates



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NZ and Australia urged to persist in concerns over democracy in Fiji

A former civil servant in charge of Foreign Affairs in Fiji says New Zealand and Australia should persist in raising concerns over democracy in the country.

Robin Nair resigned as permanent secretary of the department in April because of concerns that the administration was, as he put it, being ruled with an iron fist.

Mr Nair said Fiji is in a militarized democracy, despite the elections in 2014 which saw Frank Bainimarama retain power in a landslide victory. He said New Zealand and Australia should keep on with quiet diplomacy, raising human rights and governance concerns at a senior level at every opportunity.

"Whether it be conversation about development or about some particular bilateral issue, I think they must inject this into their conversations with Fiji," he said.

Robin Nair said Fiji cares about its relationship with Australia and New Zealand.

"There needs to be some confidence building but at the same time there needs to be further thought given to what degree and how to proceed further with quiet diplomacy. But I'm not advocating... escalating it to any other level, apart from dialogue." – Source: Radio New Zealand

Fiji ratifies disability agreement

UNICEF welcomes Fiji's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), making Fiji the eleventh country in the Pacific to do so.

With the ratification of the Convention, Fiji has committed to align all national legislation with the provisions of the CRPD.

With the aims of the CRPD in mind, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill was introduced in Parliament last year. In addition to laws, other measures have to be taken to ensure that the rights of all children and adults with disabilities are protected, promoted and fulfilled. – Source: Relief Web

Australian Labor vows to stamp out slavery in supply chains

The Australian Labor Party will establish an anti-slavery commissioner to help victims and fight slavery overseas, leader Bill Shorten says.

"Unbelievably, an estimated 4,300 people are currently trapped in slavery right here in Australia," he says, and if Labor wins the next

election he has promised to introduce legislation to prevent slave labour being used in the global supply chains of Australian businesses.

Labor would require Australia's biggest companies to produce annual reports on the steps they are taking to stamp out slavery in their supply chains, he said. It would also establish an anti-slavery commissioner to help victims of slavery in Australia, and to fight slavery overseas.

"Australia must legislate to prevent modern slavery in its supply chains. No person wants to purchase goods tainted by slavery. No business wants slavery in its supply chains."

In February the attorney general, George Brandis, asked a Senate committee to consider establishing such legislation. The committee has received 90 submissions, including from Nestle Australia, Adidas, Rio Tinto and the Human Rights Council of Australia. Similar legislation is in place in the UK, France, California and the European Union. – Source: The Guardian

Nauru negligence: Canberra pays

The Australian government has settled out of court to pay compensation to the family of a young Iranian girl for "negligence" in her treatment while detained on Nauru, from where she emerged with several mental illness..

In May 2015 the family of the then five-year-old girl launched legal action against the Commonwealth and the minister for immigration and border protection, Peter Dutton. It was alleged her treatment on Nauru had resulted in severe mental illness and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Last month the Northern Territory supreme court heard the parties had reached a compensation settlement, subject to court approval. The amount was not disclosed but it was acknowledged the agreement was compensation for negligence and did not include court costs.

John Lawrence SC, acting for the family of the girl – referred to as SGS – told the court they had "not significantly" compromised on the damages they were seeking.

A trial was set to begin this month but those dates have now been vacated. The family's lawyers have until the end of this month to apply to the court for approval of the settlement and to provide evidence – including affidavits from SGS's father and reports by psychiatrists and psychologists.

The family has been living in Brisbane since the department granted them a transfer from Darwin's Wickham Point detention centre into community detention in 2015. They were brought to Darwin in late 2014 from the Nauru immigration centre for the father to

receive medical treatment.

They had been on Nauru for a year after some time on Christmas Island – where it was alleged SGS was exposed to sexualized behavior.

Medical reports about the child's condition, seen by Guardian Australia, detail severe psychiatric symptoms and extreme anxiety triggered by thoughts or reminders of Nauru. Three separate psychiatric reports stated categorically SGS should not be returned to the island. – Source: The Guardian

Vanuatu health: rights, drones

An amended Mental Health Act is almost complete. Under the guidance of the World Health Organization (WHO), Vanuatu's antique 1965 text is being brought up to date and the final work is imminent. Director of Public Health, Len Tarivonda, pointed out to the visiting experts how human rights issues now had to be properly acknowledged. Human rights abuses have been common practice in many communities, he said. Vanuatu does not have a dedicated facility for treating people with mental health issues.

Also in health news: as we first reported back in March, Vanuatu is pioneering the use of drones to deliver vaccines to remote communities. With poorly and irregularly maintained rural road services, Vanuatu will provide a humanitarian testing ground for the technology, which in recent years has been most often associated with warfare. Santo will become the principal test centre after early trials in rural Efate.

And a final health story: Vila's Central Hospital is being upgraded with Australia's cyclone recovery funding. Just look at the list: repairs to the laboratory and x-ray building, improvements to the operating theatre and increased capacity in the morgue. All original hospital buildings will be re-wired to remove exposed cabling and ensure waterproofing.

Britain's High Commissioner David Ward, who is based in Honiara, has been visiting and has renewed the contract of the Public Prosecutor from Fiji, Josiah Naigulevu, another healthy move for Vanuatu, says Justice Minister Warsal. "Vanuatu may be smaller compared to other Melanesian countries, but we have shown that the Rule of Law is the most paramount thing in a democracy." – Source: Bob Makin, Daily Post.

Murray Burt is a retired editor and journalist who is concerned that lesser elements of the Commonwealth get poor media coverage. He is actively involved in several Commonwealth organizations.



Aruacana - Jungle hen. (Photo. M. Livsey)

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Domestic Fowl

We kept them in Laidley, (rural) Qld; our nephew keeps them in suburban Brisbane; but here in Winnipeg, backyard “chooks” are a No, No! (By-law No. 92/2013: “... no person may keep or raise poultry except in districts zoned ‘agricultural’ under the Winnipeg Zoning By-law.”). Too bad! Of all the bird species, *Gallus gallus domesticus* is one of the easiest and most enjoyable to observe. When cared for responsibly, chickens are entertaining, educational, environmentally friendly and productive. Can you picture a kookaburra, or crow, or pigeon wandering around the ground with a little clutch of mini versions of itself scrambling along behind?

Their domestication, in Asia, has been traced back millennia, and was possibly for cock-fighting initially. Once a hen has laid a clutch of fertile eggs, she goes broody and sets – incubating them for approximately 21 days. Like all birds, chicks break out of their confine-

ment using their egg tooth. Within a day or two they’re out of the nest and following mum around as she calls them to seeds, scraps and grubs. The rooster, too, will draw the families’ attention to feed that he’s found before he eats. Their ancient jungle instinct still kicks in at dusk when they will perch/roost for the night, away from predators, if possible.

Animal welfare standards these days call for more humane conditions for commercial poultry operations. As a result, “enriched” or “furnished” cages have become common for battery laying hens. These provide more space/hen, a perch and a scratching pad to allow for more normal behaviour. The trend now, however, is for even these to be phased out in favour of more communal housing.

Old brews..

Canada – Labatt’s: Founded by John Kinder. In 1847, a little more than a decade after he arrived in London, Ont. from Ireland. That same year, he purchased London’s Simcoe Street brewery in partnership with Samuel Eccles and by 1855 had become the brewery’s sole proprietor. The brewery was later renamed John Labatt’s Brewery, marking the beginning of one of Canada’s largest and most successful companies. [Link]

New Zealand: The first beer brewed in New Zealand was by Captain Cook while anchored in Ship Cove in the outer reaches of Queen Charlotte Sound in January 1770. Here Cook experimented with the use of young Rimu branches as a treatment against scurvy. It was brewed on Saturday 27 March 1773 on Resolution Island, in Dusky Sound, Fiordland. Other than that ... it gets complicated. There are claims by Monteith’s, Mac’s and Founders – see The Bottleneck [Link]

Australia: The oldest brewery still in operation is the Cascade Brewery, established in Tasmania in 1824. The largest Australian-owned brewery is the family-owned Coopers Brewery, as the other two major breweries Foster’s Group and Lion Nathan are owned by the South African SABMiller and the Japanese Kirin Brewing Company, respectively.
- Wikipedia



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Australia set to pay A\$70-million is compensation to Manus Island refugees

The Australian government and its contractors agreed last month to pay A\$70-million compensation to 1,900 refugees and asylum seekers, who allege they were mistreated while held in camps on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea.

The payment is part of a legal settlement reached last month in a case taken by human rights' lawyers on behalf of the detainees, who sought to reach Australia by boat to apply for refugee protection but were instead transferred to remote South Pacific Islands.

Canberra has agreed to pay the compensation to avoid the publicity and cost that would be generated by a trial, but has denied liability in what lawyers say is one of the largest human rights-related class action settlements in Australia to date. – Source: Financial Times, CHRI

Canberra hopes more women win seats in Papua New Guinea election

Of the 3,324 candidates contesting the Papua New Guinea election only 165 are female.

In the 42 years since independence, only seven women have been elected to Papua New Guinea's parliament.

As polls opened two weeks ago for two weeks of voting, Australia is hoping its efforts to train 127 potential female political candidates increases from three the number of women MPs now in the 111-member legislature.

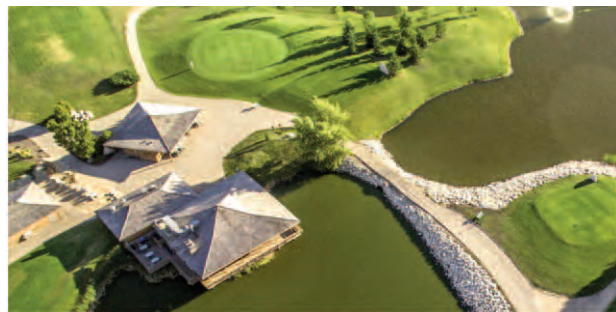
PNG and other Pacific Islands have some of the worst rates of gender violence in the world.

Human Rights Watch estimates 70% of PNG women are raped during their lifetime. – Source: AAP

Golf anyone?

The Down Under Club is hosting its annual Golf Tournament at The Players course in north-west Winnipeg again this year. For our new club members, be assured this is a very casual tournament, played for fun, on a course that always suits the range of talents of our participants.

We offer the choice of playing 9 or 18 holes, with those playing the full 18 teeing off at 11 am, and then



joining up with those playing 9 holes at 1.15 pm. Afterwards we adjourn to the water-side verandah of the casual restaurant at the course.

The date is Saturday, August 19th. The street

address is 2695 Park Royale Way, Winnipeg (from the intersection of Route 90 and Inkster Boulevard, about 1 km west). Good weather is guaranteed, book early to avoid disappointment, by calling Peter, 204-237-1805.

The Southern Yarn

August 2017



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

AUGUST

Golf Tournament
Saturday 19th August
at The Players, 2695 Park Royale Way
(Inkster West).

Tee time is 11:00 am for 18 holes; or 1:15 pm
for 9 holes. Call Peter Munn at 204 237-1805
to book your entry.

SEPTEMBER

Snack and beverage
Saturday 23rd September, 1 pm
at Prairie's Edge Restaurant
in Kildonan Park, 2015 Main St, Winnipeg
Relax with mates on the patio. Call Judy at 204-
275-7083 to let us know you're coming.

OCTOBER

The less-Formal Dinner
Saturday 28th October, 6 pm
Miss Browns, 288 William Ave, Winnipeg
Cost will be \$45, all inclusive. 6 for 6:30 pm.
We'll show you the delicious menu choices in the
next Yarn. Call Judy at 204-275-7083 to let us
know you're coming.

NOVEMBER

The even-less-formal AGM
Friday 24th November, 7 pm
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

Come and make a difference.

DECEMBER

The even-more-fun Family
Christmas Party
Sunday 3rd December, 5 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

Don't forget the kids!

LATER

High tea is still on the cards for early Spring.
If you'd like to suggest a new social event, we're
happy to help you plan it for the Club!

Pool party!



What a great pool party the Downunder club had on Sunday, July 30! Lynley and Jason Davidson were excellent hosts to approximately 40 adults and children on a perfect, warm, sunny day.

Their swimming pool with new slide, together with the re-created back yard, and flower garden beds, was lovely. Lots of sitting areas under the gazebo, or in the shade, and lots of pool space for swimming, fun and

games, complete with super-range super soakers. The following BBQ burgers, smokies and chicken kebabs were expertly cooked by Jason, with the accompanying sides and desserts provided by club members.

There were a few new folk, brought along as guests of members, and it was nice to meet Arthur Cramer, Jacqueline Cassel-Vernon's fiancé.



online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



Summer so far has been a work-leisure balancing act. We've managed to fit in a few enjoyable road trips – last month to Moosomin, just over the border in SK; and this month to the 4th Annual Old Shoe parade in Holmfield, MB. Lots of history to take in, along with the beautiful prairie patchwork landscape, wildlife and friendly rural folk. And of course, there are the nearer to home attractions for a spur of the moment picnic. Even the work part of the equation hasn't been too bad: I visited a Hutterite Colony's goose hatchery and growing operation recently – fascinating! The DUCW's events add to pleasure – like the recent Pool Party, where we caught-up with friends, including the Vernons – see "Getting to know" (p.4) for an update on their good news.

Hope yours is going well, too – unless you're shivering downunder.

Thank you to other contributors this month – Judy Powell, Jacqueline Cassel-Vernon, Jenny Gates, Peter Munn, Murray Burt and our advertisers.

what's on

Aussie and Kiwi culture we can celebrate here

On Tap

Okay, so actually not from down under, but it's beer, so why not? Get your tickets now for Brew at the Zoo on **Friday September 15** from 7 to 10 pm. The event showcases the growing craft brewery industry in a unique after-hours, adult's only experience at the Assiniboine Park Zoo. Enjoy beer sampling, food and live music. Tickets are \$39.95 + GST and \$59.95 + GST. [online link]

On Netflix

The Water Diviner * – starring Russell Crowe

Rake * – Aussie TV series

Oddball – Aussie family film

The Code * – Aussie TV series

What We Do in the Shadows * – NZ vampire movie

Bombshell – NZ thriller

* seen and recommended

Share your cultural connections. Please email us at info@downunderclub.mb.ca with other suggestions to include in this monthly column.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



The weather has been great the past few weeks, and what a pleasure to spend so many evenings outdoors eating meals, or maybe reading a book, without the worry of excessive mosquitos, (mosquitoes??) if any at all. I was once the preferred eating choice of mozzies in the St. Vital area, they were real-

ly attracted to me, but not so much now. And they like me even less since I purchased a thermocell device after hearing from Ian and Catherine their glowing report on the product. So for the past three years or so, when I am outside, I fire up the TV remote-sized thermocell, and truly enjoy bug-free living outside. This is not a paid advertisement, but in my experience, it is one of the best mosquito prevention devices. Enjoy the dog days of summer,

Peter Munn



Storm clouds over the Saskatchewan Manitoba border. Photo: Charlie Powell.

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Downunder TRAVEL

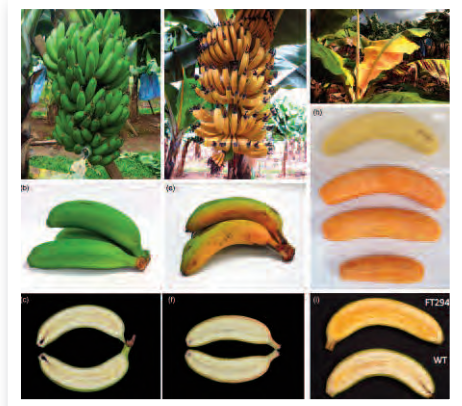
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But they're still bent!

Australian Food News reports: "Researchers at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) have used genetic engineering to develop a golden-orange fleshed banana that is rich in pro-vitamin A. Backed with close to \$10 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the research ultimately aims to improve the nutritional content of bananas in Uganda, where the fruit is the major staple food in their daily diet." [More online]



And they still wear pyjamas...

Can you believe it's been 25 years since Bananas in Pyjamas first graced our screens?

Are you thinking what I'm thinking, B1?

I think I am, B2. It's Bananas in Pyjamas quiz time! [Try it online!]



But what will the peas think?

Four'N Twenty is selling a Cheese and Vegemite version of its beef pie to celebrate two major milestones achieved by both Four'N Twenty and Vegemite.

Patties Foods' Four'N Twenty marks its 70th anniversary in 2017 while Vegemite became an Australian-owned brand again when it was acquired by Bega Cheese from Mondelez International in April 2017. Aus-FoodNews [more online].



Anything you can do, I can ...

Peters Ice Cream and Arnott's have partnered to launch a new ice cream line.

The ice creams will feature a range of Arnott's classic biscuits including Wagon Wheels, Mint Slice, Iced VoVo and Caramel Crowns.

In a joint announcement, the two brands said Arnott's worked on transferring the flavour of the biscuit to the ice creams, while Peters perfected the flavour into a quality frozen product. [More online].



Apparently NZ is mudless ...

The southern hemisphere's first mud and music festival, Mudtopia, will be held at Rotorua's Arawa Park Racecourse from December 1-3. But the mud (powder) is being imported from Korea!

The three-day festival will boast a Mud Arena with mud sports, mud pools, mud obstacle courses, a mud run, and a mud zone built specifically for the kids. [More online].



Wool, meat AND milk!

Massey University sheep milking expert Craig Prichard's fun exhibit at Fieldays - allowing site visitors to milk a sheep - had seriously optimistic intent.

Behind the fun was positive news about the rapidly growing sheep milk industry in NZ. He noted that people have a sort of anxiety about food, prompting them to query its health properties and ponder whether it will make them feel better. People want to learn more about products made from sheep milk, Prichard said. [More online]

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gettingtoknow... history, and members of our club

Jacqueline Cassel-Vernon's good news

Many members will remember that sad time in March 2013, when we lost longtime member and great mate Robert M. Vernon (see *Southern Yarn*, March 2013 edition). His was a great loss to all of us, especially to his wife, Jacqueline, and kids Peter and Southerly.

Now we're glad to share happy news of the Vernon clan, announcing Jacqueline's engagement to Arthur Cramer of Gimli in July 2017. Jacqueline and Art met online in December 2015, and had their first date January 2, 2016. They've been inseparable since; "Art told me he fell in love on our first date... it took me a bit longer, but I wasn't far behind."

Art is also widowed, losing his wife Darlene in 2014, after a long battle with cancer. That shared experience has helped their relationship. "We still miss and love our late spouses – there's no jealousy, only understanding and compassion when memories sneak up," Jacq said.

Having no children of his own, Art's been thrown in the deep end of parenting, learning quickly how fun teenagers can be. He's done well, and their first family trip together, to Mt. Rushmore, Minneapolis and back, went off without a hitch.

Art is very insistent that Peter and Southerly remember their dad and their Aus-

tralian heritage. He greatly enjoyed meeting DUCW members at the Davidson's annual pool party, and is trying to learn some Aussie Slang.

No date is set yet, as the happy couple has lots of details to work through, with homes, pets, etc. We'll keep you posted.

We also got to know Peter and Southerly a little more at the pool party: Peter is still actively enjoying Air Cadets involvement; and Southerly is into Anime Art – check out these examples from her sketch book.



Where's the Vegemite, mate?

That's the question posed to us recently by Rob Harstedt who, along with his wife, found themselves staying longer in Winnipeg than originally expected. Rob had been looking for Vegemite since arriving in Canada, and was keen to stock up.

First up, I directed him to London Drugs, and in Rob's words, "London Drugs was a success. There's a few jars on the shelf still but the best before date is Sept 17 so it's getting close. Thanks for your help."

A short time later, Rob sent another message that he had found more jars at Save On Foods.



So, not only were we able to reconnect the travellers with their favourite spread, but we have also confirmed another rich source for folks living here in Winnipeg.

Rob and his wife flew to Vancouver on August 16 after making the most of their visit with family and taking in the sights here.

Happy travels to you both!
Jenny Gates

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Australia at UN Human Rights table

Australia had secured sufficient votes to win its seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council even before France withdrew, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop says.

France's withdrawal from the three-way contest leaves Australia and Spain to fill the two seats open to Western Europe and other states, from 2018.

Ms Bishop said Australia had secured a significant number of votes, both in writing and through verbal confirmation, before France pulled out.

"France obviously assessed its chances and withdrew from the competition so there's now Spain and Australia to fill the two vacant positions but there is still a vote and that will take place in October of this year," Ms Bishop told reporters in Melbourne on Friday.

—SOURCE: Australian Associated Press

Copwatch: monitor harassment of Australian indigenous people

Indigenous communities across Australia could be trained to expose police harassment with mobile phones and social media if a human rights group's plan succeeds.

The Copwatch project will provide human rights lawyers and journalists to teach indigenous communities how to film and share interactions with police and authority figures. Sydney-based National Justice Project is developing the program as a response to complaints of over-policing in indigenous communities. Sixteen Aboriginal communities in NSW's central west will put their hand up for Copwatch if it gets off the ground.

"The community shouldn't be the ones monitoring the police behavior but we have to because of ongoing abuse," Murdi Paaki chair Des Jones told AAP. Copwatch has raised more than \$23,000 of its \$50,000 goal through crowdfunding online at chuffed.org. — Source: Nine Digital Pty Ltd 2017

NZ law change, apologies to gays

New Zealand lawmakers unanimously apologized last month for the "tremendous hurt and suffering" of hundreds of men who were convicted of homosexuality during the years it was treated as a crime.

Parliament took the rare step of issuing a

formal apology to all those unfairly convicted under the antiquated laws. Lawmakers also approved the first stage of a bill that will allow the men to have their criminal records wiped clean, legislation that comes four years after the South Pacific nation legalized same-sex marriage.

The measures were passed with unanimous approval among lawmakers from various political parties.

Justice Minister Amy Adams, said the nation is "putting on the record that this House deeply regrets the hurt and stigma suffered by the many hundreds of New Zealand men who were turned into criminals by a law that was profoundly wrong, and for that we are sorry," said Justice Minister Amy Adams. It was unimaginable today that consensual sex between adults would be considered criminal.

"It is never too late to apologize," The government estimates about 1,000 men will be eligible to have their convictions quashed. Most were prosecuted after 1965 and before 1986, when NZ decriminalized homosexuality. They were convicted of crimes such as indecency, sodomy and providing a place for homosexual acts. Those with convictions will need to apply to have their cases assessed because the law didn't distinguish between consensual and nonconsensual gay sex, Adams said. —SOURCE: Nick Perry, AP

Scrutinize NZ emissions targets

The way in which New Zealand's greenhouse gas emission targets are handled needs careful scrutiny, the High Court in Wellington has been told.

Hamilton law student Sarah Thomson has taken a case challenging the targets and asking that decision-makers be ordered to reconsider them.

However Crown lawyer Peter Gunn suggested the Judge hearing the case should exercise restraint, saying it would be difficult for the Court to assess the social ramifications involved against the political issues and international considerations that needed to be taken into account.

Ms Thomson's lawyer Davey Salmon had earlier suggested there was a human rights aspect to the case and cited the case of the NZ-administered territory of Tokelau, which would be hard hit by rising sea levels caused by climate change.

But Mr Gunn said human rights cases usually covered situations where people were imprisoned or their lives were at risk, prompting Justice Mallon to ask why a case about the future of life on the planet would not fall in that category.

Mr Gunn said the government was not contesting the seriousness of the climate issue, but the real question was how well-equipped the Court was to examine government processes. In setting a target for New Zealand, the government considered a range of matters, including inter-generational equity and it had to decide what was, in its view the most ambitious target that could be implemented.

"It was up to the government to determine how it approached the question of equity and in my submission the approach it took was an entirely reasonable one....[It involved] some consultation, blue sky thinking and it can't be attacked as an unreasonable decision."

However Mr Salmon said one of the government's scientific experts in the case had produced his evidence before the Paris accord meeting even took place.

He said the economic modelling done was to enable a graph to be produced showing the cheapest option this country could take related to GDP growth.

"So what's being said is that we will not do a sensible share of the heavy lifting here because we want to seek 3.8 rather than 3.42.... So the model smells and it smells very bad and it smells bad in a way that the Court is competent to judge."

Mr Salmon also said emissions targets were a human rights issue and he pointed to wars currently being fought in some African countries as a result of food shortages arising from climate change.

Read two more articles from Commonwealth Corner on page seven, featured in the online version of this newsletter.

Murray Burt writes this column to raise sensitivities to the Commonwealth's value and to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world. The Commonwealth name and significance is rarely mentioned in daily news, he says. It should be.

Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; secretary of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada advisory board; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; a senator of the 166th Battery RCA (Kenora) and a director of The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



Swainson's hawk, Last Mountain Lake, SK, (Photo C. Powell)

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Raptors

The term raptor is derived from the Latin word *rapere*, meaning to seize or take by force. These birds are characterized by keen vision that allows them to detect their prey during flight and powerful talons and beaks. Most birds of prey also have strong curved talons for catching or killing prey.

– Wikipedia

I should invest in a decent camera and telephoto lens: a drive up-country last week made me wish I had the gear to capture the moment – a hawk perched on the edge of a large round hay bale, in the early dawn's misty glow, scanning the field for breakfast. My guess is a Swainson's hawk. They can often be seen on fence posts and have one of the longest migrations – wintering down in Argentina.

Other similar raptors are the red-tailed hawk (one of the most common in North America) and the red-shouldered hawk.

Sheri Rypstra reported on a plucky red-tailed hawk that was raised by bald eagles in a wildlife sanctuary in BC [link online].

Living near the Red River, here in Winnipeg, we sometimes see bald eagles cruising the waterway, but more common are Merlin falcons ("pigeon hawk") and American kestrels ("sparrow hawk") hunting smaller birds and insects. The larger Peregrine falcons are encouraged to nest downtown in return for pigeon control services. You can monitor one family 24/7 here thanks to Shaw TV's falcon cam.

Downunder, the Australian or nankeen kestrels, goshawks and swamp harriers are fascinating to watch. The latter is New

Zealand's most common raptor and not to be confused with their only falcon, the Karearea. While many raptors use speed to hunt—the Karearea for example can get to over 100 km/h—kestrels use their masterful hovering ability. NZ's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry encouraged the breeding of karearea in wine-producing areas, like Marlborough, to help control other birds messing with the grapes.

A common characteristic among raptors is the size difference between the sexes. This sexual dimorphism allows males and females to hunt different prey animals and that means they can be sustained from a smaller territory.

Here are some stamp images of raptors:



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Fiji children unaware of rights

All children need to know about their rights and they have the right to know, says Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission director Ashwin Raj.

During the National Human Rights Commission's Dialogue session at the Friendly North Inn in Labasa, Mr Raj said it was a concern to know that many children are not aware about their rights.

"Children have the right to know that they have rights," Mr Raj said. "There needs to be a greater discussion about this."

Mr Raj said he was very happy to see about 60 people from diverse groups in the Northern Division gathered for the dialogue had raised a number of issues and concerns. The dialogue focused on awareness about human rights, access to justice and the role of the Commission.

"We had members from disability communities, children with special needs, faith-based organizations, civil society organizations, youth groups and women movement," Mr Raj said.

He said they raised fundamental questions regarding their rights in relation to the domestic violence restraining order (DVRO) and how it is used by married people and those in defacto relationships.

"They questioned about village by-laws, right to cultural autonomy – do we balance that with individual rights for instance the rights of women or rights of a child.

The dialogue was supported through the Fiji Access to Justice Project funded by European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Pacific office in Fiji. – SOURCE: Fiji Sun online

Singapore hangs Malaysian, UN plea on death penalty ignored

Malaysian S. Prabakaran was hanged in Singapore one morning last month despite calls from the United Nations and others to suspend his execution.

The 29-year-old who was convicted of drug trafficking was executed at Changi Prison at 6am, according to Kirsten Han from a non-governmental group called We Believe in Second Chances.

"The family is collecting his body now," she was quoted saying in a report by The Star Online.

Prabakaran's lawyers had also called for a halt on the execution, saying their client still had a case pending with the Malaysian Court of Appeal.

His lawyers had previously filed for an application with the Appellate Court in Putrajaya for the case to be brought up to the International Court of Justice.

But the Singapore Court of Appeal rejected the application just a day after the UN Human Rights Office in South-east Asia urged for the execution to be put on hold.

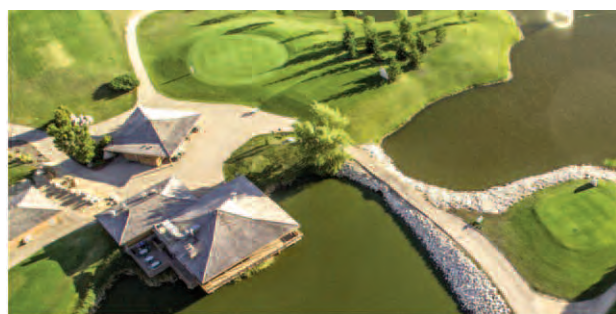
Prabakaran was arrested on a drug charge in 2012 when a car he was driving at the Singapore immigration checkpoint was found to contain 22.24g of diamorphine, the pure form of heroin.

He had however claimed that the car he was driving belonged to other individuals and that he was not aware of the presence of the drugs in the car. –Source: Malaymail

Golf anyone?

The Down Under Club is hosting its annual Golf Tournament at The Players course in north-west Winnipeg again this year. For our new club members, be assured this is a very casual tournament, played for fun, on a course that always suits the range of talents of our participants.

We offer the choice of playing 9 or 18 holes, with those playing the full 18 teeing off at 11 am, and then



joining up with those playing 9 holes at 1.15 pm. Afterwards we adjourn to the water-side verandah of the casual restaurant at the course.

The date is Saturday, August 19th. The street

address is 2695 Park Royale Way, Winnipeg (from the intersection of Route 90 and Inkster Boulevard, about 1 km west). Good weather is guaranteed, book early to avoid disappointment, by calling Peter, 204-237-1805.

The Southern Yarn

September 2017



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

SEPTEMBER

Snack and beverage
Saturday 23rd September, 1 pm
at **Prairie's Edge Restaurant**
in **Kildonan Park, 2015 Main St, Winnipeg**
Relax with mates on the patio. Call Judy at 204-275-7083 to let us know you're coming.

OCTOBER

The less-Formal Dinner
Saturday 28th October, 6 pm
Miss Browns, 288 William Ave, Winnipeg
Cost will be \$45, all inclusive. 6 for 6:30 pm.
Check out the delicious menu choices on this page! Call Judy at 204-275-7083 to let us know you're coming **and your menu selections.**

NOVEMBER

The even-less-formal AGM
Friday 24th November, 7 pm
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin St, Winnipeg.
Come and make a difference.

DECEMBER

The even-more-fun Family Christmas Party
Sunday 3rd December, 5 pm
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin St, Winnipeg.
Don't forget the kids!

LATER

High tea is still on the cards for early Spring.
If you'd like to suggest a new social event, we're happy to help you plan it for the Club!



Some of the players relaxing after a hot round.

With our golf tournament behind us, the next two DUCW gatherings will be over meals. Later in September we'll be at Kildonan Park in the afternoon (see Calendar, left) and at the end of October at Miss Brown's for the annual dinner!

Our Golf Tournament

Another great tournament was held late August at The Players club in NW Winnipeg. The weather was close to perfect, the course was in good shape, but our games not so much. We missed a few of our regulars this year, but as always, everyone enjoyed the day.

Awards were given for:

Men's long drive: Terry De Long
Women's long drive: Tracey Bernhard
Men's Low score: Pete and Repeat,
Munn and Debenham
Ladies' low score: Tracey Bernhard
Most honest golfer: Keri-Anne Bernhard
Closest to the Pin: (Now known as the Hall of Shame award, no one hit the green with their first shot)

Thanks to everyone who attended, and those golfers not mentioned above who also received small awards.



The Annual DUCW Much-less-Formal Dinner

Saturday, October 28, at 6 for 6:30 pm
Miss Browns, 288 William Avenue,
in Winnipeg's "Exchange" District

YES, this year we're at Miss Browns, where club members have gone for breakfast a couple of times, Australia Day, etc. So we know their fabulous food, and the nice owners/proprietors who are opening on the night just for us!

Spread the word! It will be a great night, but we must have RSVPs, including choices for each course, by October 14, to Judy Powell, at judy_charliep@hotmail.com or by phone 204-275-7083.

Please choose from the following options for each course:

Appetizers/Starters: (choose one)

Cream of Pumpkin Soup; or Roast Beet & Feta Salad

Main Courses: (choose one)

Braised Lamb Shanks, with creamy polenta and seasonal greens; or Chicken Stroganoff, with wild mushrooms, boiled baby potatoes and seasonal greens; or Hot Smoked Salmon, with creamy cannellini beans and seasonal greens

Desserts: (choose one)

Mini Pavlova with seasonal fruit; or Smoked Pecan Brownie with ice cream and berries

A complimentary glass of wine will be served. Coffee, tea and soft drinks are available for separate purchase on the night.

Cost is \$45 per person, including corkage, taxes, tip and venue hire. Cash or cheque payable please to DUCW on the night. RSVP, with menu choices, to 204-275-7083 - by October 14 at the latest.



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



We recently told you about Winnipeg Touch Rugby (touch footy) and the Winnipeg Bears Australian Football Club (Aussie Rules), both of which are alive and thriving right here in Winnipeg. When I looked a little deeper, Wikipedia reports that Aussie Rules is a rapidly growing sport in Canada. It is also played in Ontario, Alberta, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, and British Columbia – and Saskatchewan is in the formative stages of development. Contact rugby is also very popular (through Rugby Manitoba in this province).

Not into sports? Then there's the Australian Shepherd Club of British Columbia – “a non-profit organization founded in 1988. Its members are dedicated to encouraging the advancement of the Australian Shepherd as a working stockdog”.

Then there are other downunder-related social clubs: the Toronto Australia New Zealand Club (Tranzac) in Ontario – “This relaxed place hosts live music and theatre almost every night, plus films and literary events”; Australia New Zealand Association (the ANZA Club) is in the heart of Mt Pleasant, Vancouver; and the Downunder Social Club of Calgary – “To bring Australians and New Zealanders living in Calgary together for social events, keep them informed about news back home, and ward-off the home-sick blues.”

And here we are – the DUCW – still active in the heart of the continent, and about to enjoy a new slate of events (see the calendar).... Looking forward to seeing old friends again.

Thanks this month to Peter Munn for organizing the Golf Day, Jenny Gates for the “Getting to know” on p. 4, and Murray, Brian and our advertisers.

Enjoy!



The Hydesmith's Aussie 'Chester'. Australian Shepherds originated in Spain, but came to the USA from Australia, establishing the breed's name.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



ATTENTION:

Now that I have your attention I am asking for someone to help on the executive committee as our membership person. You will be working with the nicest group of people (just look at their names on this page). There are about 10 short meetings per year, and you will be responsible for

maintaining our membership list and membership status. Norm has done a stellar job, and we thank him for his past work, but on his 50th anniversary with the club, he has decided to hang up his saddle at last. While it would be great to have a call from one of our newer members, all are welcome to help. I promise you this is not an onerous task, and you will not be left alone. We have a great, fun executive. No boredom here. Please call me at 204 237-1805, and I can give you the low-down.

Peter



Favourable autumn weather has made camping and excursions along places like Lake Winnipeg very nice this September.

– Hydesmith photo

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Think of a name ...

An "incredibly rare" white koala has been born into captivity at Australia Zoo. The joey still doesn't have a name but don't call her an albino.

Her fur is white but the baby's skin and eyes are the usual brown-black. Central Queensland koala expert Dr Alistair Melzer said in his almost 30 years in the field he had never seen a white koala, at least partly because animals that colour were much more vulnerable to predators. Australia Zoo and Tourism Australia have launched a competition on Facebook to name the koala, on show at the zoo's "Mums n Bubs" enclosure. [Read more online]:



Native crops of the future

The Australian Geographic reports: There are more than 6000 edible plants in Australia that are not widely used for food today. Many of these would consume less water and fertiliser than currently cultivated species. Readers are directed to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Sydney, where you can also sign up for a bush tucker hunt.



[Link]

Australian gunners on a duckboard track in Château Wood near Hooze, 29 October 1917.

Photo by Frank Hurley

100 years ago

During the course of 1917 all Australian forces arrived in Belgium for the 'Flanders offensive'. Their first major battle took place on 20 September 1917 near the Menin Road during which the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions reached the outskirts of Polygon Wood. Six days later, on 26 September 1917, the Battle of Polygon Wood began. The 5th Australian Division was on the attack and expelled the

newszealand

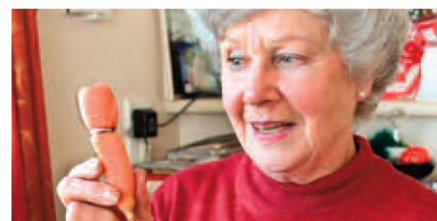
source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Germans from the infamous Butte. Bere Ferrers rail accident

This century-old rail accident occurred at Bere Ferrers railway station in Devon on 24 September 1917. Ten soldiers from New Zealand alighted from their troop train on the wrong side of the train, having assumed they should leave by the same side they had entered, and were struck and killed by an

oncoming express. Two troopships of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, the Ulimaroa and the Norman, had just arrived at Plymouth Sound from New Zealand, and the soldiers were en route to Sling Camp on Salisbury Plain. Their train left Plymouth Friary railway station at 15:00. The soldiers had not eaten since 06:00 that morning and had been told that at the train's first stop, Exeter, two men from each carriage could collect provisions from the brake van. [More online]



(Wikipedia)]

Lost and found

Balclutha woman Carol Creighton had given up on ever finding her lost eternity ring - until a friend dug up her vegetable garden.

"He said to me, 'I think I've got a surprise for you'," Mrs Creighton (76) said of her friend, Tom Dickson (82), when he handed her a bunch of carrots from her vegetable garden yesterday.

"He said, 'What have you lost?'"

She saw he had a bit of dirt in his hands and the only thing she could think of was the eternity ring given to her by her mother.

Then Mr Dickson, who knew she had misplaced the ring years ago, produced the carrot with the eternity ring around it. Mrs Creighton said she last recalled having the ring in 2006. [More online]

The Breeze Walking Festival

This year's festival will be running from Saturday 30th September to Sunday 15th October 2017 to coincide with the New Zealand school holidays.

There will over 50 free walks catering to people from all walks of life: from child-friendly jaunts to more challenging treks for the experienced walker.

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The Historic Road to Now

Back in July, various events were organised to mark the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Selkirk Treaty [www.peguisselkirk200.ca]. Brian Hydesmith was there as official photographer to record those events, and that's when he met sisters Dawn, Elaine and Carol. Given their New Zealand connection, Brian suggested they contact us and tell us about their visit here. Following is a very interesting story as relayed by Dawn Uyehara.

We are three New Zealanders descended from the 1815 Selkirk settlers. We decided to come to Winnipeg to see where they settled and then follow their journey to Scotch Grove, Iowa.

My father was a genealogist and first introduced me to the story of our great-great-great-great grandparents Isobell and William, which I have now been researching for about five years.

William and Isobell Sutherland and five of their children left Kildonan, Sutherlandshire, in 1815. They landed at York Factory and lived in the Red River Settlement. Their three oldest children, Alexander, Catherine and Wm Jr, came two years earlier with the Churchill group.

After William died in 1838, Isobell and four of her grown children and their families travelled 1,000 miles south to settle in Iowa. They were among the first settlers of that area, which was later named Scotch Grove after the Highlanders from the Red River Settlement. Unfortunately, Isobell died within a year, and because a church and cemetery wasn't established at that time, she is most likely buried on the family farm.

We were surprised to learn we had a US connection, and that Isobell is buried in Iowa. And although we weren't able to find a grave marker for her, we did find her sons' headstones in the little cemetery there.

William and Isobell's youngest daughter, Helen, married George McRae, and in 1824, the two returned to Scotland. They migrated to NZ in 1842, where they homesteaded a sheep station in Marlborough. My sisters – Elaine Purdum and Carol Bailey – and I are descended from Helen, and grew up in Christchurch and Wellington. Carol now lives in Rotorua, and Elaine and I live in Texas – that bit wasn't planned, but just worked out that way.



Dawn Uyehara, Steve Hanken, Elaine Purdum, Carol Bailey, and Steve's sister-in-law Shirley at the Scotch Grove Cemetery in Iowa. Their ancestors landed at York Factory in 1815. Photo provided.

This has been a pretty amazing trip. We met some wonderful people, including Steve Hanken, curator of the Jones County Historical Society in Iowa, and his sister-in-law Shirley, who kindly showed us the Sutherland farm, the old Scotch Grove church and cemetery, and the Edinburgh Pioneer Museum which has many Red River settler items.

And we got to do and see what we hoped to, plus so many more wonderfully unexpected things. A highlight was the fact that in one day we travelled what would have taken

them three to four months on foot while pulling a Red River Cart with all their belongings. It's given us a great appreciation for their perseverance and courage to walk all that way.

PS During our correspondence for this article, Dawn and her family were evacuated because of Hurricane Harvey. After 10 days, they were finally able to go home, so big thanks to Dawn for all her help and information during that difficult time.

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Call revived for NZ probe of Kiwi troops accused of civilian deaths and injury. Getty Images

NZ govt asked to investigate Afghan civilian deaths

Aug 22 marked the seventh anniversary of the SAS-led raids involving NZ troops in Afghanistan's Baghlan province which allegedly injured 15 civilians and killed six, including a three-year-old girl.

The government is facing renewed calls to investigate allegations against the NZ Defence Force in Afghanistan months after they dismissed the possibility of an inquiry.

An inquiry held in the wake of the botched attack by two Afghan ministries and the International Security Assistance Force cleared NZ soldiers of any wrongdoing, but the NZDF never carried out its own investigation.

Lawyers representing the villagers have since filed proceedings against the government in the High Court. Human rights advocate Marianne Elliott, a former UN worker in Afghanistan, insists the incident must be investigated. – SOURCE: Newstalk ZB

NZ jailed get UN hearing

The cases of two long-jailed New Zealand sex offenders are due to go under the spotlight at the United Nations human rights committee in October.

The committee has invited Wellington lawyer Tony Ellis and a government representative to Geneva for a rare chance to speak about the cases of two men serving preventive detention terms.

Allan Brian Miller was sentenced to the open-ended term of preventive detention 26 years ago, and Michael John Carroll was sentenced 29 years ago. Both have multiple rape convictions, and both are still in prison.

Their arguments about the independence of the Parole Board, and the way preventive detention is served, have already been through the New Zealand court system.

Australia's North Korea response over-zealous

Australia's reaction to the exchanges between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump has been couched principally in terms of what North Korea might do to Australia and of what Australia's treaty obligations to the United States mean under ANZUS. This seems to miss the point. As important as the North Korea issue is for everyone, it is primarily about the countries of Northeast Asia and the United States.

Australia sees the world most often in terms of itself. This is of course a common failing with all nation states. Australia may not be the worst offender, but it has room for improvement.

So when Kim engages in his dangerous tomfoolery, the Australian government cites an existential threat to Australia. It is true that if Kim can hit Los Angeles, he can also hit Sydney. But Berlin is 500 kilometres closer to Pyongyang than Sydney. London is only further by 100 kilometres. And there are many other obvious targets closer to the North Korean mainland – Seoul and Tokyo to begin with. So we have to keep things in perspective.

After the latest exchanges on North Korea, Australia's immediate reaction was to proclaim its possible military involvement should things heat up on the peninsula. – SOURCE: East Asia Forum excerpt

Slavery in supply chains stirs concern and action in Australia

Make no mistake: you have personally benefited from modern slavery. It might be in the clothes you wear, the prawns you grill or in the smartphone you may well be reading this article on.

Modern slavery is an umbrella term that covers crimes like forced labour, human trafficking, bonded labour (where the worker is ostensibly paying off a debt), and forced or child marriage. Migrants and refugees are common victims, lured abroad with a promise of good work. They often have their identification documents taken and are housed in squalid conditions with other victims.

About two thirds of the global slave trade occurs in the Asia-Pacific. Some of Australia's biggest trading partners, including China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, are host to some of the most egregious crimes.

The Australian Parliament is currently holding an inquiry into adopting a Modern Slavery Act, similar to one introduced in the UK in 2015. It would bring the crimes of slavery, forced labour and human trafficking

under a single law, overseen by a new office – the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. – SOURCE: By Daniel Graham in Choice.

NZ Euthanasia bill advances

A bill proposing to legalize euthanasia has been given a legal tick by the Attorney-General, who said it would not infringe basic human rights if enacted.

The bill was proposed by ACT and the party's leader, David Seymour, said he was pleased his End of Life Choice Bill passed the legal hurdle.

Proposed laws are tested using routine assessments by Attorney-General Chris Finlayson, who weighs legal validity under overarching legislation such as the Bill of Rights Act. In a report, Finlayson said the bill was consistent with rights regarding freedom of conscience and expression.

His report related to the framework, not any moral or philosophical questions.

"The report says that the eligibility criteria are narrow enough and the safeguards strict enough" Seymour said.

The bill provides for a legal landscape in which people with a terminal illness or a "grievous or irremediable" medical condition [have] the option of requesting assisted dying". Finlayson found the bill was inconsistent with the Bill of Rights on age, meaning the 18+ threshold was deemed legally restrictive.

Gender discrimination in Samoa

A United Nations human rights panel visiting Samoa believes a lot more work needs to be done to tackle deeply rooted gender discrimination in the country.

The UN special mission was invited by the Samoa government to look into the current situation of women's human rights.

The mission held discussions and consultations in seven villages on Upolu island which includes Vava'u, Salani, Sapo'e, Utulaelae, Si'unui, Salesatele and Salelesi.

The mission welcomed the adoption of various laws that honour Samoa's constitution and international human rights obligations regarding discrimination against women and gender-based violence. These laws cannot be fully effective unless women's sexual and reproductive rights are met and they are economically empowered. –SOURCE: RNZ

Murray Burt writes this column to raise sensitivities to the Commonwealth's southern values 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.



Swallows perched on power lines, nesting in tight spots.
(Photos C. Powell)

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Now swallow!

Another drive in the country prompted inspiration for this month's feature bird. The main photo above shows just a few of the hundreds of swallows that were perched on hydro lines near St Ambrose, Manitoba, in the last week of August. Some of them likely had nests in the abandoned building below them. Before we provided such structures, most swallow species used caves, cliffsides and riverbanks or holes in trees for nesting. The inset photo shows how they can make use of anything available. Many will use mud, with or without grass.

The world's 83 species of swallows occupy every continent except Antarctica. Their slender body and relatively long pointed wings make them very manoeuvrable fliers. Combine that with a strong jaw that can allow for a wide-open gape and you have an efficient insect vacuum.

Common in Manitoba are the tree, barn and cliff swallows and the purple martin. The latter is encouraged to live here thanks to the man-made condos provided for them (see photo, right).

In return, they're meant to do something about our provincial "bird" numbers - the mosquito!

Australia has its share - white-backed, barn, red-rumped and the good old welcome swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*), so named for its appearance each year heralding spring for southern Aussies.

The welcome swallow was first observed breeding in New Zealand in the '50s, possibly having been blown off-course on its migration north from Tasmania. They have now filled the void left by several native species that suffered extinction with the arrival of man (and rats).



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Don't ask new NZ Labor leader

New Zealand's new Labor leader, Jacinda Ardern, has said it is unacceptable that women face questions in the workplace over their motherhood plans after she was asked on TV about whether she wants to have children.

Ardern, 37, was unanimously elected as leader of the party early last month after Andrew Little stepped down less than two months before the election is due to be held. Little resigned citing three consecutive polls showing support for the opposition party at a disastrous 23-24% – the lowest approval rating in nearly 20 years. Ardern became NZ youngest Labor leader

In one of her first TV appearances youngest co-host Jesse Mulligan struck a controversial note:

"I've got a question and we've been discussing today whether or not I'm allowed to ask it," said interviewer Mulligan glancing at his female co-host Kanoa Lloyd, who laughed uncomfortably and rolled her eyes.

"A lot of women in New Zealand feel like they have to make a choice between having babies and having a career or continuing their career ... so is that a decision you feel you have to make or that you feel you've already made?"

In the past Ardern, only the second woman to lead New Zealand Labor, has spoken candidly about being wary of taking on senior leadership roles, including the prime ministership, because of the strain it can place on family and home life.

Ardern responded politely: "I have no problem with you asking me that question because I have been very open about discussing that dilemma because I think probably lots of women face it." Ardern added that she did not regard her "dilemma" as any different from other New Zealand women juggling multiple priorities and responsibilities.

Later, however, the opposition leader bristled at The AM Show's co-host Mark Richardson after he said New Zealanders had a right to know whether there was a possibility their potential prime minister might take maternity leave.

"If you are the employer of a company you need to know that type of thing from the woman you are employing ... the question is, is it OK for a PM to take maternity leave while in office?" Richardson asked.

Ardern, visibly angry, defended the right of NZ women to keep their child-bearing plans private from their employer, a position upheld by the Human Rights Act of 1993, which states it is illegal for an employer to discriminate against a current or potential employee on the grounds of being pregnant or wanting to have children in the future.

"I decided to talk about it, it was my choice, so that means I am happy to keep responding to those questions," said Ardern, who has in the past expressed the desire to have a family.

"But, you," she said, turning her chair to face Richardson and pointing her finger directly at him, "It is totally unacceptable in 2017 to say that women should have to answer that question in the workplace, it is unacceptable, it is unacceptable."—SOURCE: Eleanor Ainge Roy freelances for The Guardian

HR and Vanuatu's Mental Health

An amended Mental Health Act is almost complete. Under the guidance of the World Health Organization (WHO), Vanuatu's antique 1965 text is being brought up to date and the final work is expected imminently. Director of Public Health, Len Tarivonda, pointed out to the visiting experts how human rights issues now had to be properly acknowledged. Human rights abuses have been common practice in many communities, he said. Vanuatu does not have a dedicated facility for treating people with mental health issues.

Also in health news: Vanuatu is pioneering the use of drones to deliver vaccines to remote communities. With poorly and irregularly maintained rural road services, Vanuatu will provide a humanitarian testing ground for the technology which in recent years has been most often associated with warfare. Santo will become the principal test centre after early trials in rural Efate.

—SOURCE: Bob Makin, Daily Post

The Southern Yarn

October 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.



downundercalendar

Month:

OCTOBER

The less-Formal Dinner

Saturday 28th October, 6 for 6:30 pm

Miss Browns

288 William Ave, Winnipeg

Cost will be \$45, all inclusive.

Check out the delicious menu choices on this page. This is not just for members. Make it a night out with friends – they will also enjoy a taste of downunder camaraderie!

Call Judy at 204-275-7083

to let us know you're coming and your menu selections.

NOVEMBER

The even-less-formal AGM Friday 24th November, 7 pm Scandinavian Cultural Centre 764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

We look forward to seeing a good turnout at this annual lively event. It's a good chance to raise suggestions for Club activities while enjoying snacks and drinks from the bar. Come and make a difference.

DECEMBER

The even-more-fun Family Christmas Party Sunday 3rd December, 5 pm Scandinavian Cultural Centre 764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

Santa will bring the gifts – you bring the food.

Don't forget the kids!

This is a FAMILY POTLUCK DINNER. Send in the names and ages of children who will be present to Margaret Munn at 204-237-1805 or social@downunderclub.mb.ca

LATER

High tea is still on the cards for early Spring.

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



Prairie's Edge gathering

A few of us enjoyed a good social time over lunch and a beverage at Prairie's Edge, despite the sun not shining and the patio being a tad too chilly for enjoying the great outdoors at Kildonan Park. Viewed across the landscaped pond through the café's picture windows, a tablet etched in a large block of stone intrigued us enough that we hiked over later – it really was a copy of The Ten Commandments!

The Annual DUCW Much-less-Formal Dinner - Saturday, October 28

YES, this year we're at Miss Browns, where club members have gone for breakfast a couple of times, Australia Day, etc. So we know their fabulous food, and the nice owners/proprietors who are opening on the night just for us!

Spread the word to family and friends, it will be a great night, but we must have RSVPs, including choices for each course, by October 13, to Judy Powell, by phone 204-275-7083, or judy_charliep@hotmail.com

Please choose from the options listed below for each course. Dinner includes bread roll and butter and a complimentary glass of wine. Coffee, tea and soft drinks are available for separate purchase on the night.

All this for \$45 per person, including corkage, taxes, tip and venue hire. Cash or cheque payable please to DUCW on the night
RSVP, **with menu choices**
by October 13 at the latest,
to 204-275-7083



*Saturday,
October 28, 2017,
at 6 for 6:30 pm*

*Miss Browns,
288 William
Avenue, in
Winnipeg's
Exchange
District*

Appetizers/Starters: (choose one)

- Cream of Pumpkin Soup
- Roast Beet and Feta Salad

Main Courses: (choose one)

- Braised Lamb Shanks, with creamy polenta and seasonal greens
- Chicken Stroganoff, with wild mushrooms, boiled baby potatoes and seasonal greens
- Hot Smoked Salmon, with creamy cannellini beans and seasonal greens

Desserts: (choose one)

- Mini Pavlova with seasonal fruit
- Smoked Pecan Brownie with ice cream and berries

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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



Glorious sunsets, colorful leaves, Thanksgiving dinners and a few remaining warm days – the pleasures of autumn! My checklist also includes outsmarting the resident squirrels. Since they help to clear our yard of fallen acorns by storing them for winter, I'll allow them to make their den in the wood pile. But not in the garage! If they just curled up and hibernated it would be no problem, but no, they can't help being destructive in the process of making their nest snug – shredding anything that isn't concrete or steel. I marvel at the instinct that impels them to prepare for the long cold months ahead. I just encourage them to do so with what nature provides. Anyway, such distractions help one through life such as it is all around (eg, senseless Vegas shooting!).

It was also a pleasure to join DUCW friends recently at Prairie's Edge and at the live telecast, at Boston Pizza, of the AFL Grand Final. Looking forward to more of the same at Miss Browns on the 28th.

This month we get to know the second incarnation of HMAS Sydney and in Birds I View (p.6) it's pelican.

Thank you again to Judy, Jenny, Peter, Brian, Murray and our advertisers.

Charlie Powell



Western Bulldogs fan spotted at the AFL Grand Final. Charlie Powell photo

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Had a great time recently watching the AFL grand-final at Boston Pizza on Henderson with members of our club, along with the newly minted Winnipeg Bears Australian Football Club, led by Allan Sharman. My Bulldogs didn't make the grade this year, but the two competing teams, Richmond Tigers and the

Adelaide Crows, both had remarkable back stories to the game, and either team would have been a worthy winner. The crowd of 100,000+ was ready for a massive contest, and they got it. And as it turned out, the slight underdog, Richmond, went on to win handily, much to the delight of their supporters, but not so much to the shopkeepers on Punt Rd, who had to put up with thousands on the road celebrating right through the night. We'll be at BP again next year, so put it on your calendar, always the last Saturday in September (Friday night our time), see you there.

A Taste of Home

Aussie and Kiwi products available in Winnipeg and Manitoba

Vegemite: Save On Foods and London Drugs (St Vital). **Tim Tams:** Superstore. **Confectionery:** Teeyah's (Hargrave) — Curly whirlys, Cherry ripers, Flakes. **Chocolate:** Cadbury in several varieties is available at multiple supermarket locations. Save On Foods also have a few Aussie products, but you'd have to ask or search.

Aussie dining: Miss Browns (downtown). **Beef pies:** Molly's Meat Pies (St Boniface). **Baked items:** (Including Pavlovas, ANZAC biscuits, etc.) High Tea Bakery (Portage Ave West) – pre-order.

Flat whites: most places make them (quality differs per establishment). **Milo:** various supermarkets. **Wine:** Australian and New Zealand wines are available at all wine outlets. **Beer:** contact MLCC for available selections and those that can be ordered.

Note that there is no guarantee the country of origin of imported foodstuffs will be Australia or New Zealand. For example, while Milo is available here, it usually isn't the Aussie or Kiwi-made stuff. If you know of or find other food and drink items from Australia and New Zealand while you are shopping, please email info@downunderclub.mb.ca so we can spread the word to other members.

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Australia no longer a top choice for expats down under

As if the rugby wasn't enough, New Zealand is now trouncing us in the eyes of expats as the more desirable place to live and work.

In 12 months, Australia has plunged from a top-10 finish to about the middle of a 65-nation ranking of the most desirable place for expats.

The dive from seventh place to 34th was the biggest fall by any country. [More online]



"Never been swooped"

We've all heard the warning: Spring time means magpie swooping season.

While most of us try and avoid any interaction with a magpie or experiment with different methods to deter the birds, this postman has become friends with them. John Kanard has been delivering mail in Canberra for the past two years and has never been swooped. "Really, it's as simple as gaining the animal's trust when it's not spring time and you feed them," he said. [more online]



100 years ago ...

On 31st August 1917, 21-year-old Edward 'Ryko' Reichenbach, arrived at the old Darwin Post Office, having cycled 3,000km across the desert from the post office in Adelaide. Ryko, a keen cyclist and photographer, broke the record for the fastest person to cycle from Adelaide to Darwin, completing the journey in just 28 days. [more online]

and

During August and September 1917 the ANZAC Corps Topographical Section rested behind the lines at Hazebrouck in Belgium. As no other work was required, they decided to keep up their mapping skills creating a five colour lithographic map of the Italian front around the Isonzo River. They were over half way completed when they moved back into the line to take part in the Third Battle of Ypres. [More online]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



The giant advance of avocados

The largest avocado producer in New Zealand - the 160ha King Avocado orchard about 20km north of Kaitia - is set to harvest about 220,000 trays of fruit this season, up from 150,000 trays last year.

But King Avocado's reign as the biggest avocado producer in the country is expected to eventually be eclipsed. Harbour Edge Avocados Ltd plans to plant about 100,000 avocado trees on 295ha at Taporā by the Kaipara Harbour west of Wellsford by the end of the 2020-21 financial year. [more online]



Otago wool at Wimbledon...

Adam Lindsay's tennis career may have been limited to primary school, but he has still managed to make an impact at the world's most prestigious tennis tournament.

The Maniototo farmer produced Perendale wool which was later dispatched to UK's WSP Textiles, felt suppliers to Slazenger for Wimbledon tennis balls. [more online]



If only it would work

Researchers have been trying novel new ways to get Maori and Pasifika people to quit smoking, including playing a game of cow pat bingo.

The idea was fun to try, but researchers from the Auckland University of Technology discovered it didn't make any difference.

Patients were given quit smoking advice when they went to their GP along with numbered tickets to take part in an online game where a cow is placed in a field marked with numbered squares. [more online]

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In the June 'Yarn we looked at HMAS Sydney I (1912 – 1928). This month we get to know ..

HMAS Sydney II (1935 – 1941)

HMS Sydney was built at Newcastle-on-Tyne, the keel being laid down In 1933 as HMS Phaeton. She was one of three light cruisers of the British Modified Leander class, but was subsequently purchased by the Commonwealth of Australia and renamed HMAS Sydney II. She was launched on 22 September 1934 and taken over from the builders on 24 September 1935.

HMAS Sydney II was ordered to the Mediterranean when the Second World War broke out. Her First action was to bombard the Libyan port of Bardia on the 21st of June 1940.



Call of duty: In the Mediterranean, 1940.

On the 27th June 1940 she went to sea in company with a cruiser squadron to provide convoy cover. On the 28th June 1940 HMAS Sydney II sank the Italian Destroyer Espero.

HMAS Sydney II again came under fire on the 9th July -1940, but it was the events of the 19th July 1940, which added to her fame. in a tactical battle HMAS Sydney II engaged and disabled the extremely fast Italian Cruiser, Bartolomeo Colleoni. Following this HMAS Sydney II set off in pursuit of another Italian Cruiser Giovanni Delle Bande Nere but was forced to give up the chase when the faster ship was out of range and HMAS Sydney was nearly out of ammunition.

HMAS Sydney II returned home to Australia in triumph. She saw further action escorting convoys overseas and also participated in convoy escort duties in Western Australia. Geraldton was privileged to host three visits of HMAS Sydney, the last being from 18th – 20th October 1941. [link]

Sydney sailed from Fremantle on Armistice Day, 11 November, 1941 to escort the troopship Zealandia to Sunda Strait



HMAS Sydney (II) berthing in Sydney Harbour, NSW.
(source: RAN)

where she was to be relieved by the British cruiser HMS Durban for the last leg of the voyage to Singapore.

The voyage was without incident and at noon on the 17 November, Zealandia was turned over to Durban and Sydney then proceeded back to Fremantle where she was expected to arrive on the afternoon of 20 November 1941.

She did not arrive Returning from her convoy duties to Java, Sydney was proceeding south along the north west coast of Western Australia when she sighted what appeared to be a merchant vessel at about 1600 on 19 November 1941, some 130 miles west of Shark Bay.

The ship was in fact the German raider Kormoran, (Commander Theodor Detmers) disguised as the Dutch merchantman Straat Malakka. Sydney challenged the vessel continuously using her searchlight whilst at the same time closing the range between the two ships.

Finally, when concealment of his vessel's true identity was no longer possible, and with the advantage of surprise, Detmers ordered the Dutch colours to be struck, hoisted the German Naval Ensign and opened

fire at approximately 1730 with all armament at a range 'somewhat more than a mile'.

Neither ship survived the battle. Of Sydney's total complement of 42 officers and 603 ratings, none survived. The only material evidence recovered from Sydney was an Australian naval type Carley life-float recovered eight days after the action by HMAS Heros and an Australian naval pattern life-belt recovered by HMAS Wyrallah . The Carley float is now preserved in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra



Ref: Finding Sydney Foundation. You can read the full story here: [link]. And a description of how her wreck was eventually found in 2008 appeared in The Weekend Australian Magazine 21st July, 2017 [link] and a navy story here: [link].

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First refugees from Australian offshore detention head to US

A few dozen refugees held in offshore detention centers run by Australia have left to be resettled in the U.S.

They are the first of up to 1,250 asylum-seekers the Obama administration agreed to accept in a deal with the Australian government in exchange for Australia accepting refugees from Central America.

It's the same deal that was the subject of a contentious phone call between President Trump and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in January. "I think it is a horrible deal, a disgusting deal that I would have never made," Trump said then, according to The Washington Post. "As far as I am concerned, that is enough Malcom [sic]. I have had it."

Despite the president's response – and the Trump administration's announcement last week that it plans to lower the total number of refugees that the US will accept next year to 45,000 – the White House appears to be sticking to the agreement with Australia.

Anniversary of 1935 death of last known Tasmanian tiger — but wait...

Benjamin was the last known marsupial of its kind. This was the sad message to Tasmanians on Sept 7, 1935. The name was posthumously given to the thylacine, commonly known as the Tasmanian tiger that had lived in captivity until it died of neglect 81 years ago last month.

The thylacine was a nocturnal creature that looked like a dog with a stiff tail and stripes on its back; both males and females had an abdominal pouch (much like a kangaroo). Benjamin was trapped in 1933 and lived in a zoo in Hobart, Tasmania, for three years. But it was locked out of its enclosure during a cold Tasmanian night and succumbed to freezing conditions.

Although believed to be extinct, there have been reported sightings ever since – as recently as March this year. The date of Benjamin's death has been declared National Threatened Species Day in Australia to encourage the protection of its own animals and ecosystems, including the Tasmanian devil, blue whale and the wedge-tailed eagle. – SOURCE: The Globe and Mail

Girls win right to wear shorts

Girls are set to win the right to wear shorts and pants at every Victorian state school.

In a victory for parents who have long complained about girls being forced to wear restrictive dresses and skirts, Education Minister James Merlino has vowed to ensure all girls have the option of wearing shorts or trousers.

"I am currently considering ways to ensure girls are provided the opportunity at all government schools to wear shorts and pants," Mr Merlino said.

"While the vast majority of schools already offer the option of female students wearing shorts or pants, it is something I would expect all government schools to do."

Momentum has been growing across Australia for schools to ditch uniforms that discriminate against girls and limit their movement.

Research shows that girls do less exercise when wearing a school dress.

NZ police wiretap protest group

In a statement of evidence provided to People Against Prisons Aotearoa's lawyer, New Zealand police appear to have wiretapped the phones of three PAPA organizers.

The authority to monitor the conversations and messages was established on Nov 22, 2016. This occurred during an occupation of a Department of Corrections office.

"At this stage we do not know if the surveillance has ended or the scope of the intrusion," says PAPA spokesperson Emilie Rakete.

"This is a blatant breach of the basic human right to privacy. People with political beliefs inconvenient to the government deserve this right as much as everyone else."

Not all Kiwis can vote

People Against Prisons Aotearoa say voting is a basic human right, but it is not a right that prisoners have. When New Zealand's first national election was held in 1853 only British men over the age of 21, who had at least £50 worth of land to their name and were not serving a criminal sentence, were eligible to vote.

The Māori electorates were established 14 years later, ensuring Māori could vote, while women waited four decades for suffrage. Now, any NZ citizen or permanent resident above the age of 18 can exercise their democratic right to vote – with some exceptions.

New Zealand's prison population, made up mostly of Māori, could affect real change on electoral outcomes if they had the right to

vote, experts say. Parliament in 2010 passed a law preventing prisoners from voting. According to Corrections' instructions anyone sentenced to imprisonment on or after December 16, 2010 is not entitled to vote.

Tonga's King George enforces dissolution of parliament

In a perfunctory decree on Aug 25, Tonga's King George Tupou VI exercised his constitutional right to dissolve his country's parliament. He gave no reason, but acknowledged having received the advice of the speaker, Lord Tu'ivakano. Yet this was no ordinary dissolution to bring a peaceful end to the life of a parliament. The purpose, as Tu'ivakano expanded, was to terminate a government that had allegedly 'trespassed on the King's powers'.

The South Pacific Kingdom of Tonga, with around 103,000 inhabitants, has only recently become a democratic state, and only partially so. It was unified in the mid-19th century under King George Tupou I, who cleverly adapted the trappings of a European-style monarchy to ward off pressures for colonial annexation. Close neighbors, like Fiji and Samoa, were less fortunate and fell respectively under British and German rule.

The royal dissolution may have brought forward the choice of a new leader, but it has done so in a way that weakens Tonga's fragile new democracy.

NZ govt. scorned for low regard and poor support for Maori language

The Conference on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was held at Te Papa in Wellington last month, marking 10 years since it was formed.

Hosted by the Human Rights Commission and the Massey University-based Global Centre for Indigenous Leadership, it provided an ideal platform for conversation about its relevance and impact in New Zealand.

Māori lawyer and constitutional expert Moana Jackson (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu) says, "The government has no regard for the UNDRIP."

He says, "The government has said for example it can't be used in treaty settlements which is denial of the Declaration itself."

Sir Pita Sharples (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngai Te Kikiri o te Rangi, Ngāti Pahauwera) says, "The government has no regard for the Māori language."



birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Pelican comes from the Ancient Greek *pelekan* which is derived from *pelekys*, meaning “axe”. The eight remaining species are the American white, the brown, the Peruvian, the great white, the Australian, the pink-backed, the Dalmatian and the spot-billed. They’re found on every continent except Antarctica. The Australian is black and white and has the largest wingspan – up to 3.4m.



Wikipedia also tells us that the great white pelican is the national bird of Romania, unlike the gray jay which is not (officially) the national bird of Canada.

We see the American white here in Manitoba where many of the continent’s population take advantage of our big 3 lakes for breeding and feeding. A good place



locally to observe them is at Lockport. They swim in formation to herd fish together for easier catching by scooping. The first time I saw the brown pelicans, in Florida, it was fascinating to watch them diving for fish from several meters above the water. You may sometimes see them flying very low over the water. This is an energy-saving technique which takes advantage of the extra lift from the air being compressed between their wings and the water.

Dixon Lanier Merritt composed a popular limerick in 1910:

A wonderful bird is the pelican,
His bill will hold more than his belican,
He can take in his beak
Food enough for a week,
But I’m damned if I see how the helican.

And Banjo Paterson’s “A Bush Lawyer” tells a tale of “Baggy-beak the Pelican”. [read it online]

what’s on

Aussie and Kiwi culture we can celebrate here

On Netflix

The Almighty Johnsons - NZ TV series

Offspring - Aus TV series (highly recommended by my niece)

The Wiggles - kids’ entertainers from down under

On YouTube

Aldous Harding - NZ gothic folk singer/songwriter, Tiny Desk

The Gruen Transfer – very entertaining Aus TV advertising show

On the shelf

Aussie Bites - available at Costco, and although not actually from Oz, they are absolutely delicious!

Online

<http://nzdigital.blogspot.ca> - A NZ photo blog.

Please email us at info@downunderclub.mb.ca with other suggestions to include in this monthly column.



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The Southern Yarn

November 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

NOVEMBER

*The even-less-formal AGM
Friday 24th November, 7 pm
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin St, Winnipeg.*

We look forward to seeing a good turnout at this annual lively event. It's a good chance to raise suggestions for Club activities while enjoying snacks and drinks from the bar. Come and make a difference.

DECEMBER

*The even-more-fun Family
Christmas Party
Sunday 3rd December, 5 pm
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin St, Winnipeg.*

Santa will bring the gifts – you bring the food. Don't forget the kids!

This is a FAMILY POTLUCK DINNER. Send in the names and ages of children who will be present to Margaret Munn at 204-237-1805 or social@downunderclub.mb.ca

FEBRUARY

*Australia Day/Waitangi Day
Saturday 3rd February 2018
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin St, Winnipeg.*

APRIL

*ANZAC Day
Saturday 28th April 2018
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin St, Winnipeg.*

IN THERE SOMEWHERE

High tea is still on the cards for early Spring. If you'd like to suggest a new social event, we're happy to help you plan it for the Club!



An excellent turnout of the DUCW at Miss Browns.

The Annual DUCW Much-less-Formal Dinner

What a pleasant touch it was to arrive at Miss Browns to receive personalized place name cards, and with our menu choices! The evening just kept getting better from there – the happy chatter of friends catching up; the complimentary wine; the fantastic food and portions (especially the braised lamb shanks!); and the special recognition for our Guest of Honour and newest Life Member, Norm Griffiths.

It was also an opportunity to wish Garry and Bev O'Connell well as they head back to Melbourne after Bev's 5 year stint as Head of Nursing at U of M. Thanks to Judy Powell for all her organizing and Steve and Jenny and their staff – no doubt we'll be back!



Happy diners



Garry and Bev O'Connell are about to return to Australia.



The chefs Jenny and Steve



Jenny Gates thanks Judy Powell for pulling it all together.

online



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www.downunderclub.mb.ca
email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



What the ...!? It's late October and I'm seeing geese flying north, again! That would be due to a high of 24.3°C, which beat the 1958 previous record high for this time of year. No complaints here – the yardwork is all done. Might also be that the geese have always known what others are discovering – that Winnipeg is a “jewel of a destination”. Gordon Sinclair Jr reported in the *Winnipeg Free Press* recently how more and more travel writers are realizing what this city offers. The Museum for Human Rights and the Hermetic Code tour of the Legislature are just two of the popular attractions being promoted. Of course, many of us have known for years what a great place we live in. And we sort of celebrated that in style at our not-so-formal dinner at Miss Browns. We were also celebrating with Norm and Debbie Griffiths – Norm was declared a Life Member and thanked for his 50 years of service to the Club.

This month we “get to know” some of the thoughts and hopes of the club executive – thanks to Jenny Gates. Norm Griffiths recently reminisced about hearing the night-time call of the curlew as a young fellow on the dairy farm near Brisbane. I had to look that up because I was more familiar with the shorebird version. I explain the difference in *Birds I View* (p.6).

Thank you again to Judy, Jenny, Peter, Brian, Murray, and our advertisers.

Charlie Powell



Museum for Human Rights. Hydesmith photo.

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



As I write this missive, it is late Saturday night, Saturday October 28th. It has been a great preceding three days. Beginning Thursday, and each day through today, I have been a judge at a Canadian competition, usually held in Canada, the International Independent Schools' Competition (IISPC). It is an annual public event open to the League's member schools from across the world. I have had the honor and pleasure to listen to the world's future leaders debate, opine, argue, comedically (I invented a new word?) approach a multitude of subjects and try to

prove to the judging panel that their approach was the way to go. If you ever feel jaded, and say “What's the point?”, listen in to young people in this type of setting.

Three young people especially impressed me, a Canadian, a Peruvian and a Scotsman. And for the feminists out there (I have my card since 1964), the gals came out winners of each topic in total in my book.

And of course, tonight was the DUCW annual “Not so Formal Dinner”. Held at Miss Browns, to me it was an outstanding success. The food was great, hospitality was great, ambience was great, and the chatter was incessant. The lamb recorded an A plus rating, and all dishes, salads, soups were accorded great reviews. A really big thank you to Judy Powell for pulling it all together.

Scandinavian Christmas Market and Café

Sunday, November 19, 2017, 11 am – 2:30 pm

SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

764 Erin Street, Winnipeg

No
admittance
charge

FEATURING

- Café serving Scandinavian delicacies
- Imported Scandinavian Foods & Candy
- Home Baking
- Nordic style handcrafted Christmas decorations

- Artisans with stained glass decorations, Viking replica items, assorted quilted items, knitted children's sweaters, hats, scarves
- Silk scarves and other assorted gift items for family & pets

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Beef is a sweet meat.

In South Australia there is a relatively small cattle station called "Mayura". Their speciality is breeding and selling pure blood wagu ("Japanese cow") beef cattle. What is even more unique is the feed. Apart from the usual wheat, rye grass, hay, broad beans and maize, these beasts are also treated to a couple of kilo of chocolate each day for their last 2 months. Customers love it - [Read more online]

The secret is out ...

It was the kind of grudge match that's usually settled by the slimmest of margins.

But at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the netball gold medal match was a blowout.

Australia beat arch rivals New Zealand by 18 goals. It was the Diamonds' first Commonwealth gold in 12 years, and they took it 58-40. ABC Science explains how studying how fish shoal gave the Aussies their advantage. [Read more online.]

Banning the bag

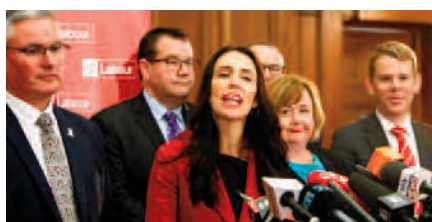
The Victorian State Government has announced it is banning single-use light-



weight plastic shopping bags in Victoria, according to Australian Food News. A date for the ban is yet to be announced with business and community consultation on how best to implement the ban occurring first. In a statement, the Victorian Labor Government said bans in other states and territories had resulted in "undesirable results" including increased use of heavier duty plastics and it wishes to consult with different parties so a workable scheme can be created. [Read more online]

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Jacinda Ardern becomes prime minister after Winston Peters forms coalition with Labour

Jacinda Ardern will become the country's third female prime minister, after New Zealand First leader Winston Peters threw his support behind Labour to form a coalition government and end nearly a decade of National rule.

Key points:

Jacinda Ardern will be New Zealand's youngest leader since the 1800s

Winston Peters said the choice was between "a modified status quo or ...

change"

Labour campaigned on affordable housing, healthcare, education and environment. [More online]



Woolworths banning the bag

Woolworths is banning plastic bags in its New Zealand Countdown supermarket stores.

By the end of 2018, single-use bags will no longer be available in-store and through online shopping.

The move follows Woolworths' decision to ban all single-use plastic bags in its Australian supermarkets by the end of 2018. [Read more online]



100 years ago ... One soldier's story of Passchendaele ...

New Zealand lost 842 soldiers during the ill-planned push to capture Passchendaele. It was the single worst loss of life in New Zealand's history. Letters home from one of those soldiers leading up to his charge into No Mans Land reveal a sad truth of the soldiers who signed up to see the world. Read Sydney Carl Jordan's story here [online]

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Executive opportunities

Being on the executive of the Down Under Club of Winnipeg is not all fun and games.

Oh, who am I kidding? It IS all fun and games, with a dash of hard work thrown in for good measure.

Earlier this year, most of the DUCW executive gathered at the Munn's home for a pre-executive-meeting barbeque, and I took the opportunity to chat with them about life on the executive and the future direction for the Club.

The current executive is **Peter Munn** (president), **Catherine Bowering** (vice president), **Peter Debenham** (treasurer), **Margaret Munn** (secretary), **Judy Powell**, **Lucia Barron** and **Joanne Debenham** (sharing the social coordinator position), **Norm Griffiths** (membership), and **Charlie Powell** (newsletter editor).

Their involvement on the exec ranges from a few years to almost 30 years for Peter D. A few have taken on more than one position, including Peter M who started as social coordinator, then vice president, and now president.

Being on the executive is an honour, a great way to get to know some excellent people, and an opportunity to provide input and ideas. As a born organiser, Margaret said the exec "gives me a chance to get my 2 cents worth in. Seriously, I think the club is very important to the Aussie/Kiwi community, and I am happy to help support it and keep it going in whatever way I can."

To make sure the club does continue and grow, the exec would like to see more "special" events (i.e., Anzac event, social gatherings), promote *The Southern Yarn* even more, build our social media profile, talk more about the club to others, extend our relationship with the High Commissions, and invite newer members to get involved with the ongoing running of the club. Peter D also suggested we "put on one big bash every year." Anyone want to help with that?

Catherine would also like for us to share our stories more, Charlie would like to see more people contribute to the newsletter, Judy welcomes suggestions for events, and Lucia would love members to be more involved with the club. Charlie and Peter M



Founding member Gordon Keatch (left) awards Norm Griffiths a lifetime membership in the Down Under Club. Brian Hydesmith photo.

specifically invited people to "Jump in for a year and volunteer to help with the running of the club." Excellent idea, what with elections coming up on 24th November. Any takers?

Ultimately they all agree that in order to continue as a thriving club, we need more members and more people actively involved. Margaret is right that our connection with the AHC "shows we are more than just a social club," and wonders if there's even a way for us to "help newcomers acclimatize to Winnipeg – where to go for something, or how to prepare your car and home for the winter or summer, etc." Perhaps we could

talk with Bashir Khan about that.

By all accounts, being on the exec and/or more involved as a member are the two best ways to help the DUCW continue well into the future. And if you would like to do either of those, or if you have ideas you'd like to share, email info@downunderclub.mb.ca or call 204-275-7083.

And in the meantime, from all your friends in the DUCW, thank you Peter M, Catherine, Peter D, Margaret, Judy, Lucia, Joanne, Norm and Charlie for all you do as our exec members.

- Jenny Gates

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Australia debates building giant coal mine

At Abbott Point, in a desolate corner of north-eastern Australia, about 100 miles from the nearest town, a grassy stretch of prime grazing land sits above a vein of coal so rich and deep that it could be mined for decades.

The Australian government is considering a proposal to build one of the world's largest coal mines in this remote locale, known as the Galilee Basin, where acacia and eucalyptus trees grow wild between scattered creeks.

An Indian conglomerate, the Adani Group, has asked for a taxpayer-financed loan of as much as \$800 million to make the enormous project viable, promising to create thousands of jobs in return.

But the plan has met intense opposition in Australia and abroad, focusing attention on a question with global resonance: Given the threat of climate change and the slowing global demand for coal, does the world really need another giant mine, especially at the public's expense?

Adani has proposed building six open-cut pits and five underground complexes capable of producing as much as 66 million tons of coal a year. New infrastructure to support the mine – a rail line to the coast and an expanded port – would also make it economically feasible to extract coal from at least eight additional sites in the Galilee Basin.

That could more than double coal output in Australia, which already produces more coal than any other nation except China, the United States and India. About 88 percent of the 487 million tons of coal mined annually in Australia is exported.

For many environmentalists, what happens in this mining case is a test of the world's commitment to fighting climate change. Its failure would register as an unmistakable sign of an international shift away from the fossil fuels behind climate change. But if Australia agrees to subsidize the mine – even though several commercial banks have shunned it – the project would demonstrate the lasting allure and influence of the coal industry.



Kiwis against solitary in prison

Prison abolitionist organization People Against Prisons Aotearoa (PAPA) is launched its campaign against solitary confinement in Auckland last month. The group's aim is to have all forms of solitary confinement in prisons banned.

"In our work with prisoners, our advocates have seen first-hand the destructive nature of solitary confinement. This disturbing practice must be ended immediately," says PAPA spokesperson Emilie Rākete.

The group defines solitary confinement as the forced isolation of prisoners from meaningful human contact for 20-14 hours a day. According to PAPA's analysis of data released under the Official Information Act, a New Zealand prisoner is put in solitary confinement approximately every 43 minutes.

The campaign launch event featured legal scholar Moana Jackson, peace activist Valerie Morse, PAPA researcher Ti Lamusse, and letters from prisoners who have survived solitary confinement. – *SOURCE: Scoop Politics*

NZ Ombudsman more relevant

Chief Ombudsman Peter Boshier has released his Annual Report for 2016/17, saying it shows his Office is having a greater impact in more areas and on more lives so that people are treated fairly in New Zealand.

"In our role as a watchdog of freedom of information, we're clearing more complaints more quickly, using flexible and sophisticated ways of reaching resolution. This means more people getting timely information and answers," Boshier said.

"Our handling of complaints under the Official Information Act, Ombudsmen Act and Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act means we achieved 700 remedies for New Zealanders over the past year."

These are solutions to problems people have experienced in their dealings with the public sector. Many more people frequently benefit, as the remedy can include an agency changing its systems so the problem won't recur.

As an office dedicated to resolving systemic issues in the public sector, the ombudsman released comprehensive reports into matters such as use of mechanical restraints in prisons, or working with communities at times of massive change and disruption; both including recommendations acted upon by the agencies concerned – *SOURCE: Scoop Media*

NZ's sex regulations a bust

Prostitutes raised red umbrellas in celebration of New Zealand Prostitutes' Collective entering its third decade last month. Speeches were made, and stories shared among a crowd of a hundred at Wellington's Southern Cross bar, before the umbrellas – a symbol of sex work – were lifted for a photo opportunity.

But a new book, highly critical of the New Zealand Prostitutes' Collective (NZPC), issued a warning to the world this week: the New Zealand model is "as useful as a burst condom". Speaking from Bergen, Norway, the morning after a book launch, Bindel says her work is a grassroots, investigative expose of legitimised sex work around the world.

A prostitution abolitionist, she uses words unlike those used in New Zealand's sex industry. The cover of Bindel's book: *The Pimping of Prostitution: Abolishing the Sex Work Myth*. It's not sex workers or prostitutes; it's "prostituted women". Brothel owners are pimps or abusers, no bones about it. Johns or sex buyers aren't always punters; they're also abusers.

And the service provided by women in the sex industry is spoken of in violent terms.

In researching the book, Bindel visited New Zealand in April 2016 and spoke to eight sex workers, two in brothels and four on the street.

Among the failures of the New Zealand system in removing abuse, exploitation and trafficking, she lists: convictions for underage workers, exploited foreign workers, a problem acknowledged within the industry, and a 2004 US State Department report that called New Zealand "a trafficking destination country".

Bindel advocates for the Nordic model, which criminalizes brothels and sex buyers, but not prostitutes. Implemented in Norway, Sweden and France, under such a model prostitutes are offered "a way out" through health services, she says. – *SOURCE: Business Day; Sunday Star Time; Stuff*

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.



Long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Curlews

The true curlew is a shorebird in the genus *Numenius*, a group of eight species of birds, characterised by long, slender, downcurved bills and mottled brown plumage. The whimbrel is another member. They are also characterized by extensive migrations and world-wide distribution. They like feeding on mudflats, probing for worms, other invertebrates and crabs.

The ones you might have heard “wailing” in the night downunder, the stone-curlew, are not true curlews – just distant relations.

The nine species are found in the tropical and temperate regions and Australia's two types – the bush stone-curlew and the beach stone-curlew – tend to favour the more arid habitats.

Their large yellow eyes give them more of a reptilian look. They are largely nocturnal, feeding on insects and invertebrates, and rely on camouflage during the day. Also to escape notice, they will “freeze”.



Bush stone-curlew



Butcher Bird



Magpie

Reader feedback:

Judy came across this compliment to the musical butcher-bird. [Link]

My uncle in Canberra sent this close-up of a visiting magpie.

He also sent a couple of links: Kea voted bird of the year in New Zealand – [video]

And - What is Australia's best bird? And what is the worst? [link]



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Modern slavery in supply chains stirs action in Australia

Make no mistake: you have personally benefited from modern slavery. It might be in the clothes you wear, the prawns you grill or in the smartphone you pack to read this article

Modern slavery is an umbrella term that covers crimes like forced labor, human trafficking, bonded labor (where the worker is ostensibly paying off a debt), and forced or child marriage. Migrants and refugees are common victims, lured abroad with a promise of good work. They often have their identification documents taken and are housed in squalid conditions with other victims.

About two thirds of the global slave trade occurs in the Asia-Pacific. Some of Australia's biggest trading partners, including China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, are host to some of the most egregious crimes.

Australia's "slavery laws" hold business opportunity

Legal experts, including Australia's Human Rights Commissioner Edward Santow, discussed the business benefits of the proposed Modern Slavery Act last month in a forum on modern slavery at the Sydney office of Herbert Smith Freehills.

Also on the panel were HSF Paris partner and co-head of its business and human rights practice Stéphane Brabant, partner Quentin Digby, special counsel Amalia Stone and senior associate Amanda Lyras.

The panel welcomed the proposed introduction of a Modern Slavery Act in Australia, similar to that in the UK, which would place greater obligations on businesses to eradicate slavery from their supply chains. Slavery takes many forms in the modern world, including human trafficking, forced labor and forced marriage.

Under the proposed act, companies with revenue greater than \$100-million will be required to publish an annual statement about the potential for modern slavery in their structures, operations and supply chains, and any implemented policies to address the issue.

The panellists said this compulsory reporting requirement will not only push businesses to help eliminate slavery, but will also give them an opportunity to cast their brands in a positive light. —SOURCE: Tom Lodewyke; in Australia's Lawyer's Weekly

Death of Papua journalist sparks debate on domestic violence

The death of a high-profile Papua New Guinean journalist at the age of 41 has sparked a national debate about the country's continuing epidemic of violence against

women, after graphic photographs were shown at her funeral.

Family members of Rosalyn Albanie Evara, who was an editor at PNG's largest newspaper, have received support from the Port Moresby governor for their calls for a police investigation into her death.

Evara died last month after she collapsed at her Port Moresby home, and was rushed to hospital. The Post-Courier journalist was farewelled at a funeral in Port Moresby, where an aunt, Mary Albanie, used her eulogy to allege Evara had been violently assaulted and showed photographs of her battered body and alleged a history of abuse.

"When I heard that you died, I regretted that I should have done more than just talk to you, but how?" said Albanie. She said they discovered the bruises when preparing Evara's body, and decided to take photos in the hope it may lead to criminal prosecution.

Albanie told the Guardian she felt compelled to raise the allegations at the funeral, which was attended by Evara's husband. —SOURCE: By Helen Davidson; The Guardian, Australia

Murray Burt writes this column to raise sensitivities to Commonwealth's southern values 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.



Paddlers fit in a final four day canoe trip before the weather turned cold at the end of October. Brian Hydesmith photo.

The Southern Yarn

December 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

FEBRUARY

Australia Day/Waitangi Day
Saturday 3rd February 2018

Scandinavian Cultural Centre

764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

This is a FREE fun social event where we celebrate our respective national days and enjoy great food prepared by some of the finest chefs in Winnipeg – YOU! Stay tuned for the annual bake-off contest theme. There might also be a fun trivia quiz on New Zealand and Australia; a game of two-up; and more prizes! And the bar will be open...

MARCH

High Tea Bakery
Date t.b.a.

2103 Portage Ave, Winnipeg

APRIL

ANZAC Day
Saturday 28th April 2018

Scandinavian Cultural Centre

764 Erin St, Winnipeg.

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



The Family Christmas Party

The evening was again a fun-filled event - excited and satisfied children, thanks to Santa delivering just what they wanted; new friends being made; and all enjoying lots of delicious food, desserts and beverages. Thank you to everyone who contributed – communications with Santa, food, kitchen prep and clean-up.

Heading toward 2018

The Annual General Meeting

A quorum of members participated on 24th November in the important business of the Club. Pretty much the same core group of members continue to dedicate volunteer hours to keeping the wheels turning. One change was Terry Roberts stepping into the Membership Chair position – 'on ya, mate! And thanks again to Norm Griffiths for his years of service (and ongoing help in mailing out the Yarn).

So your executive for 2018 consists of Peter Munn, President; Catherine Bowering, Vice President; Peter Debenham, Treasurer; Margaret Munn, Secretary; Terry Roberts, Past President and Membership; Judy Powell, Joanne Debenham and Lucia Barron, Social Coordinators; Charlie Powell, Newsletter Editor.

Bill Pooley was a reassuring presence in terms of our legal obligations and Gordon

Keatch again ably handled the nominations and voting process.

Another bright spot in the otherwise dry proceedings was the presence of long-time member Richard Graydon. As he and Betty Ann are down-sizing, he kindly brought along a number of New Zealana (?) items to give away – on you too, mate!!



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



This issue marks 5 years for me as editor - a milestone for sure, but still well short of Jenny Gates' 17 years. We could justifiably ask ourselves "will the Club last another 12 years?" When we barely manage a quorum for the AGM and the next generation doesn't seem to be interested in taking over the reins, it's a valid question... until we see the fun and fellowship at the Family Christmas Party, or remember the excited full house gathered at Miss Browns, the well-attended ANZAC Day commemorations and the lively turnout to celebrate our national days. There is good reason and encouragement to carry on. And, more personally, I continue to receive positive feedback to keep the *Southern Yarn* coming - despite the popularity and instant access of social media - for example:

"You have been sending me copies of the DownUnderClub magazine for some years, and it occurred to me that I should email you back and tell you how much I enjoy reading them. Long may they come :)"



Having recently returned from China, where Judy and I thoroughly enjoyed immersion in their history and hospitality, I thought I would delve a little into some early Chinese connections with Australia and New Zealand - see *Getting to Know*, p. 4. Also, after finally purchasing a compact camera with a decent zoom (40x optical!), I was able to "capture" some different birds to share with you - this month, the hoopoe (*Birds I view*, p. 6).

Thank you this month to Peter, Brian, Murray, Malcolm, Gordon, Ian and our advertisers.

Charlie Powell

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



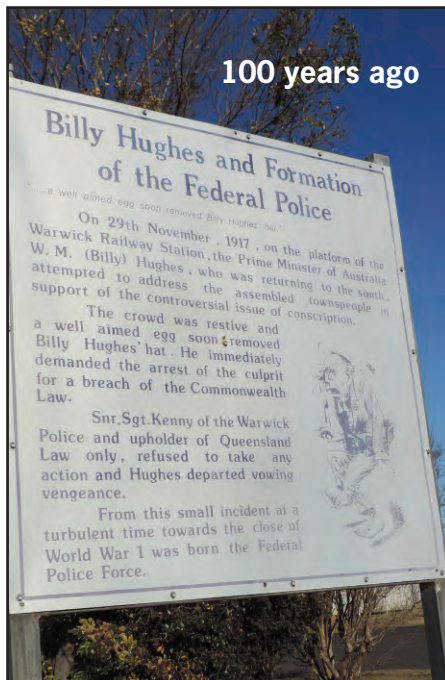
I had a great time at the Christmas Party on Sunday.

For those of you that weren't there, we really missed you at one of our signature social events. Ian and Catherine tried their best to make it on their return from Australia, but were unfor-

tunately stuck in Vancouver due to an airline problem. The children receiving gifts from Santa were ecstatic as usual, with the exception of one young man, who quite obviously mistook the jolly red man for someone from his worst nightmare. So a good time was had by all, and yes, we did miss you.

From our house to yours, we wish you a very merry Christmas, enjoy time with your family and friends, and may we all look forward to a great New Year.

100 years ago



The "Egg Throwing Incident", Warwick, Queensland, 29th November 1917: in the lead up to a second referendum on conscription, Prime Minister Billy Hughes - under pressure from Britain to increase Australian participation in the war effort - was delivering a speech at the Warwick railway station. At least one bloke in the crowd apparently was not in favour of the plan, and to reinforce his disapproval tossed an egg at the PM, knocking his hat off!

The story goes that Sir Billy rushed off the platform at the man, trying to draw his revolver from his coat, but he had left it in his carriage. So he ordered the local policeman to arrest the tosser, Mr Patrick Brosnan. Sgt Kenny said "no mate, you don't have jurisdiction here" which left Billy huffing and puffing more than the steam engine.

It is further claimed that this incident was the catalyst for the formation of the Commonwealth Police force. [Link]

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Craft Beer Pies

Australian Food News reports: The first batch of Four'N Twenty craft beer pies roll out in Coles and Independent supermarkets Australia wide on 9 November 2017.

The three new beef pie varieties close out a year of new flavour creations for Four'N Twenty.

After launching the Beef, Cheese and Vegemite pie as well as the Four'N Twenty Toppers range, the Patties owned company has partnered with Victoria's Grand Ridge Brewery to create three new flavour combinations. [Link]



The world's largest battery

South Australia now has this claim to fame thanks to Tesla's installation near Jamestown. The lithium-ion battery will be paired with a nearby wind farm about 200 kms north of Adelaide. The 100 megawatt/129 MWh system is designed to reduce intermittency issues and manage increased demand during summer peak loading periods, potentially providing enough energy to power 30,000 homes for eight hours, or 60,000 homes for four hours. [Link].



Another use for quandongs

Record summer rain in southern West Australia has resulted in a bumper harvest of quandongs. The bush tucker fruit is now the basis of a new beer and is being used to flavour gin. [Link]-

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



Best airline for 2018

Air New Zealand is the recipient of the number one placing by AirlineRatings.com in its annual assessment of the world's carriers, ranking ahead of its antipodean rivals Qantas and Singapore Airlines. Virgin Australia came fourth ahead of Virgin Atlantic in fifth, while Etihad, All Nippon Airways (ANA), Korean Air, Cathay Pacific and Japan Airlines completed the top 10. [Link]

Colorful kiwifruit

Zespri welcomed an announcement by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment that it will support a renewed partnership with Zespri to develop new kiwifruit products and breeding technologies. It is hoped that the \$6.7 million investment will result in at least one novel fresh fruit product type by 2030 and could



increase New Zealand export revenue by \$200 million a year by 2045. [Link]



Predator free by 2050

Even the US military are showing interest in Dr James Russell's research. The interest in Russell and New Zealand emerged during an investigation into the activities of a multi-national science advocacy and gene drive research body called Gbird. Our national goal of wiping out possums, rats and stoats roughly sits with the research focus of leading thinkers on gene drive technology. [Link]

Saudis are a fan of the Fan ...

Skilled salespeople think of new markets for their products. Husband-and-wife team Kim McAulay and Janice Atkinson offer frost protection fans to Saudi Arabia.

Frost? In Saudi Arabia? Atkinson, director of innovative company Tow and Blow, and husband McAulay have invented what they believe to be the world's first truly portable wind machine; their giant, eight-metre-high fan is being sold overseas - and is of interest to the Saudis.

But why does such a hot place need a frost protection fan?

"They are really getting into horticulture on the edge of the desert - and it gets very cold at night," says Atkinson. [Link]

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Chinese Downunder

The Chinese arriving in Australia were the largest group of Asian settlers in Australia – arriving mostly from southern China after Britain had forced China to open its ports to foreign trade in 1842. After the gold rushes of the 1850s, most returned to China. Those that stayed worked as labourers in the sugar and banana industries, market gardeners, shopkeepers, laundry operators, cooks and shearers, as well as clerks, carpenters and interpreters.

Chinatowns sprung up across Australia around major areas of industry; the gold-fields, tin mines and pearling. The businesses in chinatowns offered accommodation, medicinal herbs, fresh food grown by Chinese market gardeners and groceries. There were also restaurants, noodle houses, tobacconists, butchers, temples, theatres and schools in the Chinese quarters. The Chinese supplied much valued fresh fruit and vegetables in areas where water was scarce.

*It is 54 miles from Cairns to Herberton,
and I well remember a Chinaman
tramping the whole distance with two
large baskets full of apples,
which were for sale in Herberton.*

– John Potts, 1887.
Atherton Chinatown history.



Man carrying produce, Herberton. Image courtesy of the Migration Museum, History Trust of South Australia.

On the gold fields, there were accompanying racial tensions based on the different approaches to mining the alluvial gold. The Chinese were distinctive in appearance, language and dress and they became targets of resentment, which sometimes led to riots such as those at Bendigo in 1854, Buckland River in 1857 and the anti-Chinese marches at in 1860-61 at Lambing Flat, (now Young, NSW). These problems resulted in the first restrictions on immigration in Victoria 1855 and New South Wales 1861. Colonial governments differed on the policy in accordance with the proportion of Chinese in the total population – high in Victoria, low in Tasmania and also with the need for manpower.

The large Chinese celebrations as part of the opening of the first Federal Parliament and the visit of the Duke of York to Perth, in 1901 suggests a very active group in society. There were 30,000 Chinese in Australia at the time. [Link]



Chinese gooseberry becomes kiwifruit - 15 June 1959

The prominent produce company Turners and Growers announced that it would from now on export Chinese gooseberries as 'kiwifruit'. Introduced to this country in 1904, kiwifruit are now cultivated world-

wide, with New Zealand-grown fruit marketed as 'Zespri'.

Despite the name, kiwifruit are not native to New Zealand. Seeds were brought to New Zealand in 1904 by Mary Isabel Fraser, the principal of Wanganui Girls' College, who had been visiting mission schools in China. They were planted in 1906 by a Whanganui nurseryman, Alexander Allison, and the vines first fruited in 1910. People thought the fruit had a gooseberry flavour and began to call it the Chinese gooseberry. It is not related to the *Grossulariaceae* family to which gooseberries belong.

New Zealand began exporting the fruit to the US in the 1950s. This was the height of the Cold War and the term Chinese gooseberry was a marketing nightmare for Turners and Growers. Their first idea, 'melonettes', was equally unpopular with US importers because melons and berries were subject to high import tariffs. In June 1959, Jack Turner suggested the name kiwifruit during a Turners and Growers management meeting in Auckland. His idea was adopted and this later became the industry-wide name.

The Bay of Plenty town of Te Puke, where New Zealand's kiwifruit industry began, markets itself as the 'Kiwifruit Capital of the World'. In 2011 Italy was the world's leading producer of kiwifruit, followed by New Zealand, Chile, Greece, France, the USA and Iran. Most New Zealand kiwifruit is now marketed under the brand-name Zespri, partly as a way to distinguish 'Kiwi' kiwifruit from the produce of other countries. [Link]

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Australian senate passes same-sex marriage bill

Australia's upper house has approved legislation to legalize same-sex marriage. Politicians rejected efforts from conservative politicians to allow religious objectors to refuse services to same-sex couples.

Australians overwhelmingly supported legalizing same-sex marriage in a postal survey run by the national statistics agency and the bill easily passed the Senate by 43 votes to 12. It comes after Australians overwhelmingly supported legalizing same-sex marriage in a non-binding referendum.

Conservatives had pressed for broad protections for religious objectors, among them florists, bakers and musicians, to refuse services to same-sex couples.

But amendments for celebrants to refuse to solemnize same-sex marriages and for caterers to refuse service at wedding receptions were either defeated or abandoned during two days of debate in the Senate, where same-sex marriage supporters are in the majority.

The bill moves to the lower house where it is expected to pass easily.

SOURCE: The Independent

A new foreign policy white paper gets an airing in Australia

The Australian government has published a new Foreign Policy White Paper. It is 14 years since the Howard government launched its own Foreign Affairs and Trade White Paper in 2003, although the Gillard government produced the Australia in the Asian Century White Paper in 2013.

Much has changed in Australia's international environment since either of those papers were released. Indeed, much has changed since the initiation of the current White Paper process some 15 months ago.

Few would have predicted the election of Donald Trump, the extent of protectionist sentiment in North America and Europe or the acceleration of the North Korean nuclear crisis. In this new and more complex international economic and strategic environment, the Australian government has produced a foreign policy blueprint that is refreshingly frank in its depiction of the challenges its policymakers now face.

The White Paper makes clear that the most significant of the challenges stems from the two major powers in our region –

the United States and China – and the relationship between them. Few will be surprised by Australia's view that it faces a more contested and uncertain international environment as a result of the changing balance of power between the United States and China and its concerns about how China may use its political, military and economic weight in the future.

What will surprise observers is the White Paper's unequivocal statement of the threat to international order emanating from the United States. Those threats include deep-seated protectionist and anti-globalist sentiment, a lack of support for key global and regional institutions such as the World Trade Organization and debate about the country's willingness to pay the costs of ongoing global leadership. The White Paper states time and again that the United States will remain Australia's most important international partner and ally. But in betraying such a note of alarm about US retreat it is apparent – as one observer has argued – that the Australian government 'doesn't believe its own public rhetoric about the United States as some sort of security guarantor' – problems that Australia and its partners now confront'.

New Zealand trading policy for fig leaves

By Gary Hawke, Victoria University of Wellington

Trade policy was not prominent in the recent New Zealand general election. But it is among the first issues to confront the new Ardern government – a coalition between the centre-left Labor Party and populist or maverick New Zealand First Party with support from outside the cabinet by the left-wing Green Party.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's challenges are likely to be a little different from what she expected when Labor was in opposition. When faced with executive responsibility, politicians find unexpected conflicts among their policy proposals, and her government will have to sort out these conflicts after the proposals have been taken as 'promises' by various interest groups.

Both Labor and New Zealand First conformed to conventional statements about the importance of exports to New Zealand's economy during the election, and Labor itself has a positive history with trade. It was the Labor Government of 1999–2008 that completed New Zealand's free trade agreement with China and pursued the early stages of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Some vocal supporters of the Labor Party were opposed to trade agreements (and to the TPP in partic-

ular) but it would have been reasonable to expect a Labor-led government to offer those supporters little, while pursuing what has been a bipartisan approach to trade policy.

But for this Labor government, the challenge of fulfilling its promises while staying bipartisan was intensified. During the campaign, Labor committed itself to preventing foreigners from buying existing New Zealand houses. The joint factors of high house prices, homelessness and inequality in the form of young New Zealanders being unable to enter the property market was a significant issue in the election – especially in Auckland. A ban on foreign buyers could never be a major contribution to the real policy issue of housing affordability, but it was a specific 'promise' and noncompliance could readily be monitored by the electorate.

Unfortunately for the government, the simple implementation of its commitment is incompatible with some existing free trade agreements and with the provisions of the TPP.

Officials quickly enlightened ministers that their hopes of 'renegotiation' were forlorn and indeed they could simply have read the foreign media. A Japanese trade official was unusually blunt: 'if exceptions are made for New Zealand alone, the whole thing will fall apart'.

The government was rescued by some clever but dubious redefinition

SOURCE: East Asia Forum; Gary Hawke is a Senior Fellow at the New Zealand Institute for Economic Research and Emeritus Professor at the Victoria University of Wellington.

Read more from Commonwealth Corner on page seven of the electronic version of *The Southern Yarn*, including:

- Boundary deal over oil-gas resources in Timor Sea is in hot water
- Papua New Guinea removes last refugees from Manus camp

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.



Hoopoe in a park in China.
Photo by Charlie Powell.

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell

Hoopoe in China

A recent visit to China resulted in several new bird sightings to add to my Birder's Journal. The hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) was the most surprising. I had never heard of it and even the local we were with at the time couldn't name it. Turns out they are actually fairly common throughout Eurasia. Looking like an exaggerated crested pigeon, the hoopoe mostly forages on the ground for insects, small reptiles, seeds and berries. Their long bill helps them probe for larvae, pupae and mole crickets, beetles and ants. Rather than building a nest, they will use a hole in a tree or a cavity in a wall or embankment. My research (Wikipedia) also informs me that the female develops a very effective deterrent during the nesting period: "The uropygial gland of the incubating and brooding female is quickly modified to produce a foul-smelling liquid, and the glands of nestlings do so as well. These secretions are rubbed into the plumage. The secretion, which smells like rotting meat, is thought to help deter predators, as well as deter parasites and possibly act as an antibacterial agent. The secretions stop soon before the young leave the nest. From the age of six days, nestlings can also direct streams of faeces at intruders, and will hiss at them in a snake-like fashion. The young also strike with their bill or with one wing." Cute, eh?!

Like many birds, hoopoes also feature prominently in ancient folklore and myth. In 2008 it was chosen as the national bird of Israel. [Link]

Reader feedback:

My cousin, in Victoria, Australia, referred me to a book which I have since read (and also recommend) by Tim Low: *Where Song Began*. Low describes the DNA typing of our birds and builds that with our currently dry climate in a land of exhausted soils to build a compelling argument about Australian birds inventing song to compete for plant nectar and providing bird pollination in return."

Australia voted, and the magpie has come out on top as the Bird of the Year. [Link]

Australian magpie named 2017 Bird Of The Year – Maybe if you're Bird of the Year, you're not a country's favourite feathered friend but just its most notorious?

Next issue ...

another mystery bird from China.



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Boundary deal over oil-gas resources in Timor Sea is in hot water

By Damien Kingsbury, Deakin University

Australia's agreement with Timor-Leste to settle a permanent maritime boundary in the Timor Sea may have hit a snag with Timor-Leste's politics descending into turmoil.

On Aug 30, the two countries announced that they had reached the 'central elements' of an agreement to end a falling out over the disputed waters – and its oil and gas resources – with details to be made public last month.

The dispute, which marked a low point in bilateral relations, appeared to have been resolved with the outline of a permanent maritime boundary and resource sharing agreement for the Greater Sunrise liquid natural gas (LNG) field, 80% of which is in Australian waters. The agreement implied that part of the Greater Sunrise field would remain in Australian waters, contrary to Timor-Leste's original position for a maritime boundary to be established at the halfway point of the Greater Sunrise field under the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The initial text of the agreement also referred to 'the establishment of a Special Regime for Greater Sunrise [and] a pathway to the development of the resource'. Although unlikely, this could have allowed Timor-Leste's preferred position of processing the LNG at a yet to be built facility on the country's south coast.

The leading Greater Sunrise partner, Woodside Petroleum, rejected the south coast option, instead opting for a floating processing platform. The quickest option – likely to produce revenue for Timor-Leste in time to address its falling income stream – would be to backfill an existing oil pipeline from the Bayu-Undan oil field in the Timor Sea, which is expected to run dry by 2022.

The compromise appears to fit with the more conciliatory approach of Timor-Leste's recently appointed Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri. Following the elections, Alkatiri allowed Xanana Gusmao, former prime minister and current Minister for Planning and Strategic Investment, to continue as lead negotiator on the Timor Sea.

Gusmao had argued for all of Greater Sunrise to be within Timor-Leste's territorial claim and for the LNG to be processed on

Timor-Leste's south coast. So the recent compromise would not have aligned with Gusmao's preferred position.

SOURCE: Damien Kingsbury is Personal Chair and Professor of International Politics at Deakin University and Coordinator of the Australia Timor-Leste Election Observer Mission.

Papua New Guinea removes last refugees from Manus camp

Papua New Guinea police have emptied a shuttered Australian detention camp where hundreds of refugees were holed up, police said Friday, ending a three-week-old stand-off.

The police operation, which started last week and saw 50 men removed from the closed, Australia-run centre, resumed Friday morning with a fresh push to take the remaining 320 detainees to new, PNG-run transit centres.

"Between 9 and 10 am (2300-0000 GMT) this morning, they had all been moved," PNG police spokesman Chief Superintendent Dominic Kakas told AFP, adding that the men were moved to two of the three transition facilities.

"It's empty. The military have taken back their base," he added of the Manus camp, which is located on a PNG naval base.

Video and photos posted by the refugees on social media showed uniformed police swinging and poking long metal poles at detainees and dragging them from their rooms towards buses bound for the transition centres elsewhere on Manus.

The refugees are barred from resettling in Australia, but Canberra has struggled to transfer them to third countries, including the United States.

SOURCE: Michael Koziol; AFP