

The Southern Yarn

June/July 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

JUNE

Zoom meeting

Saturday, June 12 at 3 PM

If members would like to attend, email info@downunderclub.mb.ca to get an invitation. Members will be notified by email when the next Zoom chat is scheduled.

AUGUST

Golf is in the works – stay tuned ...

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.



Ô Canada! Terre de nos aïeux,
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux!
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.

1988: Canada in Brisbane

With Canada Day coming up - a little reminiscing ... About one year before Canada was on our radar, we drove from Laidley to Brisbane and enjoyed a visit to Expo '88 and were particularly impressed and entertained by the Canadian Pavilion. – Charlie Powell

Canada, regarded as one of the 'top five' international pavilions, had a multi-themed presentation for visitors to the Expo, consisting of both indoor and outdoor entertainment (for those in the queue!). It was most particularly remembered for its multi-visual 600-seater 5-screen panorama experience "This is My Home", where in the aptly titled "Celebration Theater" guests were roused to nationalistic heights over the stirring tunes of "O, Canada – this is My Home!"

The Theater was the brainchild of Exposition artist extraordinaire 'Consulting Story-Teller' Paul Belserene – visit his website. You can listen to the theme song again here (originally composed for the Canada Pavilion at Vancouver's Expo '86) courtesy of the composer Bob Buckley of Bob Buckley Productions: (look under 'Demos', then 'Anthems', then 'This is My Home'). Highly recommended! [bobbuckley.com] The second audio-visual was planned to pack a few laughs and was entitled "Not Another Government Movie", projected on a six-part screen. The "Fitness Arcade" summed up the final part of the Pavilion, consisting of a series of computer-aided machines that measured the strength of your handshake, balance and power output. The British Columbia Pavilion – another work by Paul Belserene & Co. – featured at the exit of the Pavilion. Canadians at World Expo '88 were also prominent at the United Nations Pavilion, where Michael Con-



The Canada Pavilion at Expo '88 in Brisbane covered 2,800 square metres. The Commissioner-General was Mr Rick Hansen.

way Baker, O.B.C. (Order of British Columbia), composed the music for the United Nations Pavilion at Vancouver Expo '86, Brisbane World Expo '88, and also the music for the Canada Pavilion at Taejon International Expo '93 (South Korea). Read about the composer and listen to the music for the United Nations Pavilion [here].

One of the staff members of the Canada Pavilion has created a "Staff Re-Union" webpage, detailing the antics the three-team pavilion got up to during the Exposition. Visit the Expo '88 website. Commissioner-General Rick Hansen also has his own website, entitled 'Rick Hansen: Man in Motion', for the Rick Hansen Man in Motion Foundation. Visit the Rick Hansen website.



online



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

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



When I Googled “Australian Bush Yarns”, there was no end of book titles, including the one I have been using (p.4). I always strive for balance in the articles in this publication, so I Googled “NZ Bush Yarns”, and do you know what I came up with? Endless links to knitting skein suppliers! “NZ tall tales” got me closer to what I was searching for, however I have decided to leave it to our Kiwi readers to submit their favourite examples of local humour.

Since many are still being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, I thought it timely to consider a hero in the fight against another unpleasant virus. Polio epidemics peaked most recently around 1950. But since the '30s Sister Kenny was working to ease the suffering of victims. Read her story in “Getting to know...”, p.6.

Have you heard the expressions ‘happy as a lark’, ‘be up with the lark(s)’, and ‘blow that for a lark’? Well, Birds I view this month is the meadowlark – always refreshing to hear their happy song, p.8.

Thank you again to our faithful advertisers, literary contributors (Peter, Jenny, Judy) and you literate readers!

Enjoy!

And Happy Canada Day!

han ce...



president's ramblings

Peter Munn



To all our members,

I would like to wish everyone a great summer, long warm days, and long, cool drinks. We all deserve it. My poor excuse for a vegetable garden has now been planted, and maybe this year I will get a bumper crop of something, anything. Tomatoes, carrots, onions and spuds made the list this year, and I will try for some cucumbers as well. Big, leafy trees overhanging in a small backyard are not conducive to perfect growing conditions, but I have to try. There has been an explosion of

rabbits in our area (an unusual thing with rabbits!), so that means wire fences around anything that's green. I was reminded this week of a neighbour to my relatives farm in West Wyalong, central NSW, where my brother and I spent many summer holidays. We went chasing rabbits at this neighbour's property, and he had a fence all round his 1000 or more acres. The local shire had enforced the fence requirement due to a rabbit plague, not to keep rabbits off his property, but to keep his rabbits within his property; there were so many of them.

So enjoy the summer. I am looking forward to more golf, with only one game under the belt so far.

Take care,
Peter

Residential School – a tragic history

Canadian news is drawing public focus to our shameful history of terrible treatment and forced assimilation of Indigenous children at residential schools. Unfortunately, Australia has a similar history. Nearly 20 years ago, Antonio Buti wrote an article in the *University of Western Sydney Law Review* 26: “The removal of Aboriginal children: Canada and Australia compared”. [link]



Former Residential School, just off Academy Road in Winnipeg. Photo by Brian Hydesmith.

More than
40 years'
South Pacific
experience

Hang in there, mates!

We look forward to helping you plan your dream vacation when it is safe for you to travel again! 🤞

*Want to modify this package? Contact us for additional travel dates, departure cities, excursions and/or any hotel upgrades.

For more info:
www.downundertravel.com

Downunder TRAVEL

(403) 270-4414 Phone

1-866-470-4414 Toll Free

info@downunder-travel.com

114, 3907 3A St NE, Calgary T2E 6S7 • www.downunder-travel.com



Commonwealth pays tribute to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

It was announced on the 9 April, 2021, by Buckingham Palace that Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, died at Windsor Castle.

The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, paid tribute as follows:

"It is with deep sorrow that I have learnt of the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

"Through over seventy years of marriage, His Royal Highness supported Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in fulfilling her duties as Head of the Commonwealth.

"The Duke shared with Her Majesty a high view of what humanity can achieve through cooperation and working together. His questioning mind and sense of adventure, combined with an engaging informality and forthrightness, enabled him to communicate huge positivity and faith as to what could be achieved through individual and international connection.

"His Royal Highness had experienced camaraderie and comradeship during World War II and service in the Royal Navy. Following his marriage in 1947, he sought out ways of bringing this spirit to the institutions and organisations of the Commonwealth, so that they would reap the dividends of collaboration in peacetime too – including for remote and marginalised communities.

"It was the Duke who in 1952, during their stay in Kenya en route to Australia and New Zealand, gave Princess Elizabeth the sad news that her father King George VI had died, and that she was Queen.

"Their Coronation tour of the Commonwealth in 1953, during which they covered 40,000 miles, took place in a world far less connected than it is today by swift travel and instant communications technology.

"At the time of her coronation, the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were tremendously glamorous and remarkably young. They symbolised hope for the future, and the spirit of goodwill and



optimism rooted in a sense of belonging together as members of a worldwide family – not just of nations, but of people.

"Their tours were important expressions of Commonwealth inclusiveness, bringing together countries and communities which – although far apart on the map – were made to feel close because of shared inheritances and their continuing Commonwealth identity, made real in a special way through the physical presence of The Queen and the Duke.

"His Royal Highness had a farsighted understanding of the potential of Commonwealth connection, and his approaches to bringing people together from a wide range of backgrounds to develop leadership skills were regarded as innovative and brave.

"With vigour and vision, the Duke of Edinburgh carved out an immensely valuable role for himself within Commonwealth networks, with a focus on projects and programmes through which he could build on his distinctive philosophy of cultivating understanding and self-reliance, and thereby complement Her Majesty's official responsibilities and duties as Head of the Commonwealth.

"His Royal Highness described the Commonwealth Studies Conferences, which he founded in 1956, as "an extraordinary experiment". They were a pioneering forum for bringing together emerging leaders and talented men and women from the management of industrial corporations, trade unions, the professions and civil society. His vision and prescience in creating this move-

ment at this time was a striking demonstration of a depth of understanding of what would be needed to meet the challenges of the next millennium.

"Similarly, his determination through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to offer opportunities for young people to stretch themselves, to gain confidence and develop resourcefulness, was important in nurturing social progress and innovation throughout the Commonwealth.

"These were ground-breaking initiatives when first established, and continue – more than sixty years later – to offer valuable opportunities for people throughout the Commonwealth.

"His Royal Highness was associated as patron or president with a range of Commonwealth charitable bodies and civil society organisations, taking a keen interest in their activities. He also made notable contributions as an early and prominent advocate for international action on the conservation of wildlife and natural habitats.

"During a period of unprecedented change and technological progress, the Duke of Edinburgh supported The Queen with energy and imagination. They will each of them forever remain inextricably connected to the period when the Commonwealth developed and grew in stature.

"Past, present and future generations of Commonwealth citizens owe a debt of gratitude to Prince Philip for remaining constant and steadfast in his commitment to the Commonwealth, and his assuredness and vision of its global importance.

"When meeting His Royal Highness, I always found him charming and witty, and he showed real kindness making every effort to put me at ease.

"In mourning his passing, we each share in some measure the far greater sense of loss and bereavement Her Majesty The Queen and members of the Royal Family will be feeling at this time of such sadness.

"It falls to me, on behalf of the Commonwealth family which he served so long and so faithfully, to offer Her Majesty and all those close to His Royal Highness Prince Philip our heartfelt condolences and sympathy."

Secretary-General Patricia Scotland

Kiwi Installations & sales

kiwiinstallations.com

- Roll-up Security Shutters, ◦
- decks, fences and more. ◦
- Free in-home/cottage estimates. ◦
- ◦

Call Terry 204-229-6642 or 204-663-6549



Milo factory hits 100

[Source: ABC] Nestled on the banks of the Macleay River, Smithtown is the home of Milo, the chocolate malt powder drink that for many Australians, is the taste of their childhood. As the factory celebrates its centenary, there are very few families among its population of 600 who don't have a personal connection to it.

It is one of the region's largest employers, with more than 200 workers, most of them locals, pumping out 200,000 cans a day – that's 13,000 tonnes a year – of Milo for the world market. More than 100 members of the current workforce have been working at the factory for more than 25 years. The Smithtown site actually started as a milk processing plant in 1896.

"The site is in fact over 100 years old ... But Nestlé took ownership back in 1921," said factory manager Mathew Oram. [link]



BushYarn

The first commercial flight was set to take off from the new Atherton Tablelands Airport when a grumpy old stockman made his way down the aisle. He was lugging a well-worn saddle, a bridle and a large blanket roll. 'Sorry, sir,' the alarmed hostess apologised. 'You can't bring all that into the cabin.'

'That be darned,' the old boy grunted. 'You should be thankful I sold me old 'orse!' [Source: "Classic Bush Yarns, by Warren Fahey, 2001]

Kiwis love L&P

Lemon & Paeroa, also known as L&P, is a sweet soft drink manufactured in New Zealand. Created in 1907, it was traditionally made by combining lemon juice with carbonated mineral water from the town of Paeroa, but is now owned and manufactured by multi-national Coca-Cola.



L&P is popular in New Zealand and also available in Coles supermarkets in Australia, formerly sold in the UK's Gourmet Burger Kitchen, and in specialty stores. It is also a mixer, often with Southern Comfort.

Their comical advertising slogan "World famous in New Zealand" has also become a popular New Zealand saying for items famous within New Zealand but unknown elsewhere. The "Sweet As L&P" with aspartame was introduced in 2005 with the modified slogan "World Famous in New Zealand since quite recently", and the traditional product was promoted as "World Famous in New Zealand since Ages ago". [link]



Oyster spread with Leigh-Sawmill Beer

EatNewZealand.nz

[Source: New Zealand Tourism] A group of passionate chefs, producers, media, tourism and event organisers have come together to define the New Zealand food story. The journey is just a few years old but a new website is an important step in a collective narrative. The EatNewZealand.nz website launched recently, listing over two thousand food businesses including eating destinations, farmers markets, events and food tourism operators throughout the country. It's the first time New Zealand's farmers markets have been listed on the same platform and the first time regional food information can be found in the same place. It's been designed so a food itinerary of the country can be made. [link]

#PROTECT MB



Let's protect each other.

Plan to get the vaccine as soon as it's your turn, and encourage your friends and family to do it, too. Sign up at **ProtectMB.ca** to find out when you're eligible and for information about the biggest vaccine campaign in Manitoba's history.

ProtectMB.ca

Manitoba

Books from Down Under... for anyone who wants them

The following titles are free to anyone who wants them. Some are a very interesting read, some for older audiences, some for kids, and some for general and specific interest. First in, first pick, and anything left over will be donated to a library or school. Any questions about any of them, feel free to call Jenny at 204-228-9959.

So here we go, in no particular order ...

NEW ZEALAND

Straying from the Flock, Travels in New Zealand, by Alexander Elder, 2005 – your ticket to New Zealand

AUSTRALIA

The Sydney Papers, The Sydney Institute, 1998 – various contributors, various topics

Australia's Most Dangerous, Spiders, Snakes and Marine Creatures (Australian Geographic), 2001 – identification, first aid

Mythology by Sandra Cahir, 2002 – poems about Aboriginal mythology

The Works of Banjo Paterson, 1995 – all his poems

Australian Expats, stories from abroad, 2003 – a collection of reflections from expats around the world

The 100 Things Everyone Needs to Know About Australia by David Dale, 1999 – pretty much what the title says

The Monster That Ate Canberra by Michael Salmon, 2004 – quirky children's story about a bunyip in Canberra

History of Australia by Manning Clark, Meredith Hooper and Susanne Ferrier, 1988 – exactly as the title says

Australian Symbols, 2001 – for all the states, territories and the country

The Aboriginal Children's History of Australia by Australia's Aboriginal Children, 1977 – lovely stories and beautiful art

Australia Environments and Communities by Colin Sale & Graeme Wilson, 2000 – includes study units



Sharing books! Looking for a new used book for your summer reading? See anything you like?

Dreams of Land, Griffith Review by multiple authors, 2004 – very interesting chapters

Meekatharra, the Gold Beyond the Rivers by Hugh Edwards, 1994 – mining in Western Australia

Australia, Land Beyond Time by Reg Morrison, 2002 – the creation of the Australian continent, its landscape, plants and animals

GENERAL INTEREST

How to Avoid a Wombat's Bum, and other fascinating facts by Mitchell Symons, 2006 – lots of random and interesting bit of info

Prairie Fire Magazine, Spring 2021 – short pieces of new Canadian writing

The Book of Useless Information – title pretty much says it all

– Jenny Gates

Law services at your place of convenience

WM. B.K. POOLEY B.A. L.L.B
LAWYER · NOTARY PUBLIC

home visits · office visits
day, evening & weekend appointments

204-783-1632



A tribute to Sister Kenny

[Source: My Tributes.com, by Kirsten Jakubenko, 7th Apr 2021]

Sister Elizabeth Kenny was born September 20, 1880. A self-trained nurse in the Australian bush, she developed new methods for treating patients of poliomyelitis. Her techniques challenged the conventional treatments at the time, which created conflict between her and doctors. Eventually, medical professionals compromised their beliefs, incorporating her treatment as 'The Kenny Method' became regarded as best practice to treat polio until a vaccine was distributed in 1955.

Early Life

Elizabeth Kenny was born in the small town of Wialda in New South Wales. She was the daughter of Australian-born Mary (Moore) Kenny and Irish-born Michael Kenny. An active child in her youth, she broke her wrist while horse riding at age 17 and travelled out of town to see a Toowoomba Doctor, Aeneas McDonnell. During her recovery visits with Dr McDonnell, Kenny studied his anatomy books and model skeleton, eventually memorising all the bones and muscles of the human body. The pair developed a strong bond and Dr McDonnell became her mentor.

Not officially a qualified nurse, a letter from Dr McDonnell in 1915 outlining some nursing experience, enabled her to enlist in the Australian Army Nursing Service. She earned the title 'Sister' during WWI while nursing on cargo ships, which in the Australian Army Nursing Corps is the equivalent of a First Lieutenant.

In 1918, following her war service, Kenny helped set up a temporary hospital to care for flu pandemic patients in Nobby, Queensland. She went on to care for a close friend's daughter who suffered from cerebral diplegia. This experience coupled with nursing sick men during the War, gave Sister Kenny the experience for her later work rehabilitating polio patients.

The Kenny Method

In 1931, Sister Kenny cared for a young girl disabled by polio in Townsville. After 18



Caption: Sister Elizabeth Kenny demonstrating her therapy for polio patients to another nursing sister in a hospital in Queensland in 1939. Photo: John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland SLQ

months of care, she was able to walk again and went on to marry and conceive a child. Word spread like wildfire in the township, and local papers praised Kenny for what they believed was the cure.

Her method focused on using hot compression on affected body parts and rehabilitation exercises as soon as possible to avoid patient's limbs from becoming stiff from inactivity. She believed the muscles weren't paralyzed; as medical practitioners referred them to be, but rather limp from neighboring muscles that were spasming.

Although Sister Kenny's theory conflicted with the conventional view for treating polio, which saw limbs in stirrups and plaster casts, several locals helped her start a paralysis treatment facility under tents behind the Queens Hotel, Townsville.

Between 1935 and 1940, Sister Kenny's success rehabilitating paralysis victims saw Kenny Clinics pop up in cities across Australia - even England.

In 1940, Kenny was asked to share her methods for treating polio sufferers to American doctors. They criticised her techniques, calling her an "ignorant, uncouth bush nurse" with no formal training. Despite the harsh setbacks, she soldiered on and it was her demonstration to doctors in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where physicians took notice. The Sister Kenny Institute was built in Minneapolis in 1942 and other Kenny clinics were soon established. Sister Kenny became a heroine in America and was awarded many honours.

Final Years

Despite Sister Kenny's success in America, and extensive travel back to Europe and Australia to gain further acceptance of her method, she remained the centre of controversy. Although her views were generally not

widely accepted, she did make a significant contribution treating poliomyelitis.

Sister Kenny developed Parkinson's disease in 1951 and retired to Toowoomba, where she sadly passed away not long after on November 30, 1952.

Legacy

Sister Kenny generously cared for thousands of patients and polio victims across the world and although her fame in America was never the same in Australia, she was still highly regarded, cared for and commemorated.

The Sister Kenny Memorial House opened on October 5, 1997 in Nobby, which contains artefacts from her life.

In Toowoomba, the Sister Elizabeth Kenny Memorial Fund was created to provide scholarships to USQ students for dedicating themselves to working in rural and remote areas of Australia.

The Sister Kenny Memorial and Children's Playground in Townsville was unveiled in 1949.

American pollster George Gallup ranked Sister Kenny second to only Eleanor Roosevelt as the most admired woman in America for 10 years. She was finally voted No. 1 just before her death in 1952.

Sister Kenny drew a crowd of more than 1,000 parents of polio victims on a 1944 trip to Washington. "It's like watching a miracle," one policeman said. "You can't keep them back."

When Hollywood released the film "Sister Kenny" in 1946, 20,000 people jammed into Times Square in Manhattan for its world premiere and almost knocked Sister Kenny over.

"A measure of victory has been won, and honors have been bestowed in token thereof. But honours fade or are forgotten, and monu-

ments crumble into dust. It is the battle itself that matters - and the battle must go on." - Sister Elizabeth Kenny

Rest in peace, Sister Elizabeth Kenny - 'a raging tiger, a merciful angel'. By Kirsten Jakubenko [link]

The following report is from *The Evening Star* [Washington, D.C.], August 16, 1951

Sister Kenny Leaves By Plane for America
By The Associated Press
SYDNEY, Australia, Aug. 16.—Sister Elizabeth Kenny, incurably ill, left by plane today for what may be her last visit abroad.
On the same plane was a polio victim being flown to the Sister Kenny Clinic in Minneapolis, Minn., in hopes that the treatment devised by the famous nurse may cure him.
He is Jack Hall of Phenix, Mo., a Pan American pilot who was stricken while on vacation here.
In an airport interview, Miss Kenny said reporters she wanted to assure friends all over the world who have called asking that "my illness is not cancer. The only thing for it is absolute quarantine, but I doubt if I can get it." She did not identify the disease further. She said she may have "a couple of years" to live.
Sister Kenny's plane came back to Sydney after an hour's flight because of radio trouble. It took off again immediately.
Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York will join the plane at Fiji for the flight to United States. He has been on a six-week fact-finding tour of the Pacific.
Miss Kenny is en route to Copenhagen, Denmark, for an international conference on poliomyelitis.
Aid for Lung Sufferers
Northern Ireland tuberculosis sufferers may go to Switzerland for treatment at the cost of 15s.

[link]

Sister Kenny Leaves By Plane for America

by The Associated Press, Sydney, Australia.

Sister Elizabeth Kenny, incurably ill, left by plane today for what may be her last visit abroad.

On the same plane was a polio victim being flown to the Sister Kenny Clinic in Minneapolis, Minn., in hopes that the treatment devised by the famous nurse may cure him.

He is Jack Hall, of Phenix, Mo., a Pan American pilot who was stricken while on vacation here.

In an airport interview, Miss Kenny told

reporters she wanted to assure friends all over the world who have cabled advice that "my illness is not cancer. The only thing for it is absolute quarantine, but I doubt if I can get it." She did not identify the disease further. She said she may have "a couple of years" to live.

Sister Kenny's plane came back to Sydney after an hour's flight because of radio trouble. It took off again immediately.

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York will join the plane at Fiji for the flight to United States. He has been on a six-week fact-finding tour of the Pacific.

Miss Kenny is en route to Copenhagen, Denmark, for an international conference on poliomyelitis.

Thanks to Brian Hydesmith for letting us know that Australian author Michael Robotham's book *The Secrets She Keeps* has been made into a TV miniseries and is currently showing on CBC Gem. The 6-episode run was reviewed by *The Globe and Mail* [link] is "...chock-a-block with scandalous revelations and many escalating, sinister actions. It's the type of entertainment that is expertly contrived to make you want to binge it."

After watching the entire series, I wrote to Michael to say hi...

How's it going there for you and your family? A few of us are watching "The Secrets She Keeps" on CBC. Love that we can say we know the author. Thought I'd drop you a note after seeing you in one of the episodes. Stay well and keep writing, mate. Cheers!

To which he replied...

I remember my visit to Winnipeg very fondly and the welcome I received from the Down Under Club. And you did very well spotting my very, very small cameo in TSSK. I had a wonderful review for my latest [book] in the Winnipeg papers so I'm feeling the love from your cold little corner of the world. Hope you're well and staying safe.

Not sure how many of you met Michael when he was in Winnipeg a few years back talking with Terry MacLeod in McNally Robinson - ah, those were the days! - and maybe a few of you are reading some of his excellent books. But if you watch the show and spot him in his "very, very small cameo", let us know. And watch for his next book *When You Are Mine*, to be released on June 30, 2021.

Oh, and if you haven't caught these on Netflix yet, check out...

Australian: *Offspring, Ladies in Black, Secret City, Rake* • **New Zealand:** *The Casketeers, Merata, The Breaker Upperers*
- Jenny Gates



Canadian Club of New Zealand

Established in 1982, the Canadian Club's goal is to provide opportunities for Canadians and their families to meet and socialize with other Canadians in New Zealand. The Canadian Club holds a number of events through the year, which create opportunities for us to get together. Some of these are centered around Canadian holidays such as July 1st and Thanksgiving. Other events are just any old excuse for a party, and we also enjoy involvement by people from anywhere else, especially Kiwis.

Club History - *My recollections of the early days of the Canadian Club in New Zealand* by Sandy Schade



Back in 1982, I was a young Canadian living in New Zealand with a Kiwi husband and I realised that I was here to stay! I looked for other Canadians to help share those uniquely "Canadian" events. I wanted to have someone to share turkey and cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie with! Eventually I met several Canadians living in Auckland, and I put forward the suggestion to start a club like the one the Americans already had - and you know the thought, if it's good enough for our American neighbours, it's good for us too! Jan Pedrotti and I worked together to get things started. We didn't have internet - or even computers - so there was no Facebook or Meetup.com to help us out. We put free ads on the radio to ask Canadians to call if they were interested in getting together - and, believe it or not, put our home phone numbers over the airwaves - something we wouldn't consider today! Our first event was

a Sunday lunch at The Keg Restaurant in Manukau Road (now called Chaska Punjab). Terry Buckley hosted us to lunch on a Sunday when the restaurant was generally closed - that probably had something to do with Sunday trading in those days! We had a large turnout and some of you may still remember the great time we had. We had support from a number of Canadian companies who did business in New Zealand. Later that same year, we had a Halloween Party at a suburban school hall and we decorated and dressed up and catered for it all ourselves. It was a massive effort but lots of fun! Halloween wasn't an occasion shared by our Kiwi friends at that time, as Guy Fawkes a few days later was the main occasion to let off fireworks.

The Canadian Club of new Zealand

can be contacted via email, web, post:

Email: canadianclubnz@gmail.com

Web: www.canadianclub.nz Postal: Box 147-588, Ponsonby, Auckland 1144



Meadowlark. By Charlie Powell.

birds*i*view...

by Charlie Powell



Horsfield's bush lark
By Brett Donald © [link]

Meadowlark

The western meadowlark has a clear, distinct, flutelike melody that never fails to cheer the listener. Apart from their voice, these members of the blackbird family are the more colorful, with the yellow breast and black V-band. Their preferred habitat is grasslands, meadows, pastures, and along marsh edges. This one was photographed near the Winnipeg Airport's extensive open prairie fields. Like other members of the blackbird, or Icterid, family, meadowlarks use a feeding behavior called "gaping," which relies on the unusually strong muscles that open their bill. They insert their bill into the soil, bark or other substrate, then force it open to create a hole. This gives meadowlarks access to insects and other food items that most birds can't reach.

While they look like a lark and sing like a lark, scientifically, as mentioned, meadowlarks have been categorized in the Icterid family (with blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, bobolinks, and orioles), whereas true larks belong to the Alaudidae family. So, the only true lark in North America is the horned lark, and in Australia – Horsfield's bush lark.

Meadowlark Sings and I Greet Him In Return a poem by Mary Oliver

Meadowlark, when you sing it's as if
you lay your yellow breast upon mine and say
hello, hello, and are we not
of one family, in our delight of life?
You sing, I listen.
Both are necessary
if the world is to continue going around
night-heavy then light-laden, though not
everyone knows this or at least
not yet,

or, perhaps, has forgotten it
in the torn fields,

in the terrible debris of progress.

[link]



The Horned Lark. By Andreas Trepte © [link]



Board of Directors

President:
Peter Munn
Vice President:
Terry Roberts
Secretary:
Margaret Munn
Newsletter Editor:
Charlie Powell
Treasurer:
Peter Debenham
Social Coordinator:
Judy Powell, with assistants
Penny Hechter & Lucia Barron
Membership:
Cathering Bowering
Past President:
Terry Roberts

This newsletter can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services. Layout by design@hydesmith.com

The Southern Yarn is published by the Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc. (DUCW). The views and opinions expressed by contributors to this publication are not endorsed by, nor do they necessarily reflect those of, the members of the DUCW. The DUCW and the Editor of *The Southern Yarn* do not accept any responsibility for the content or accuracy of information or websites contained in this publication. Articles may be republished with permission of the Editor.

THE DOWN UNDER
CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.
Station Main, PO Box 1655,
Winnipeg Manitoba Canada R3C 2Z6

info@downunderclub.mb.ca
www.downunderclub.mb.ca
Like us on facebook!

Proudly printed in Winnipeg by
Kendrick Quality Printing Ltd.