

# The Southern Yarn

March–April 2023

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

## downundercalendar

### MARCH

**Sunday, March 12, 2 pm**  
**Dan's Café and Lounge**  
**Cnr Graham Mall & Edmonton St,**  
**downtown Winnipeg**

An informal get together for dessert and coffee/tea – choose from the delicious baked goodies in the showcase and select your drink from the wallboard menu. Dan's Cafe (formerly The Pastry Castle) is spacious, warm and newly renovated – a real pleasure to visit. Plan to have a relaxing hour or two in the company of friends. See [www.pastrycastle.ca](http://www.pastrycastle.ca). RSVP to Judy.

### APRIL

**ANZAC Day**  
**Saturday, April 22, 5 pm**  
**Scandinavian Cultural Centre,**  
**764 Erin Street, Winnipeg**

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service and singing of our national anthems, followed by a delicious POTLUCK. This has been a particularly important event for our Club, so come and be part of it and the social to follow. Bring a potluck dish and don't forget the bar will be open. RSVP appreciated.

### MAY

**Sunday Brunch at Miss Browns**  
**May 21, 2023 at 9 am**  
**Hargrave St. Market, upstairs**  
**from True North Square plaza,**  
**downtown Winnipeg**

A delicious return visit for a Sunday morning brunch. We will meet at the two reserved long tables and enjoy an unhurried time of catching up. RSVP by May 15.

#### RSVP for all events:

Call Judy Powell at **204 275 7083** or email [social@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:social@downunderclub.mb.ca) to let us know you're coming, and for more information.



### Australia and Waitangi Days 2023

Cold weather, a warm venue, and four large pots of hot soups equals a happy group of Club members gathering to remember our respective "home" countries with affection.

We managed a cappella renditions of our national anthems and settled down for a good social time in the Viking Room of the Scandinavian Cultural Centre.

The "cook off" theme provided chefs the opportunity to try out new or old favourites – a spicy African lamb/chickpea with veggies, a roasted squash soup, Hungarian mush-

room, and a squash/pumpkin variety. Thanks to Nancy for the bread accompaniment, and the meal concluded with a delicious selection of desserts. All soups deserved the accolade of "best in show" and the cooks were invited to choose one from a few prizes to take home.

We tried a new version of Two-up but, after a couple of goes, reverted to the tried and true two pennies. Thanks, Sam, for once again tossing the coins. A couple of the recipes can be found on p. 3.

– Judy, Social Convener

### The Question of Dual Citizenship

To apply for dual citizenship or not to apply – that is the question. We know of at least one member who is considering taking out Canadian citizenship in order to become a dual citizen, and we thought maybe some of you would like to share your thoughts about that.

*To get you thinking...*

1. In your experience, what are the pros and cons of dual citizenship?
2. Have you experienced issues with:
  - taxation
  - financials and/or banking
  - voting
  - travel
3. Any other comments?



Feel free to send to [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca) and we'll compile your answers for a future issue of the *Yarn*. We might have a longer discussion about this at a future event, so any thoughts you share now will help guide that discussion later.

– Jenny

### Land Acknowledgement

The Down Under Club of Winnipeg meets on Treaty 1 territory in the Province of Manitoba and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we live and gather, and all the lands from whence we came, including Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and Canada. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.

online



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email: [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca)

## editorially yours

Charlie Powell



A couple of bits came my way for this issue that triggered some nostalgia.

Regular *Yarn* readers will already know that I have a soft spot for Australian bird life, and I've been known to eagerly play a YouTube video of a kookaburra laughing or a lyrebird doing imitations for Canuck friends who had a more deprived upbringing. However, in addition to Vegemite, there are many other enjoyable reminders of "home", such as hearing the ABC Radio News theme music – fair dinkum! Growing up in the '50s the radio was it for news, entertainment and serials.

Along with many of the serials' themes, that music was subliminally imbedded in our subconscious. One of those serials was "Dad and Dave" (based on Steele Rudd's "On Our Selection"). So I immediately recognized it in a poem shared by (Canadian) friends Terry and Nancy titled "The Dunny" (p. 3). I suspect that its poet, David Gilchrist, must have been influenced by the Aussie original.

Thanks also to Judy for finding the background to the "Majestic Fanfare" (Oz News p. 4) and you can click on the link and hear it played by the WA Symphony Orchestra. And then there is also a little 'Did you Know' about the Violet Crumble Bar (p. 5).

On a less frivolous note, with ANZAC Day approaching, there's a nod to some unusual heroes (p. 4).

Wild turkeys have been introduced downunder, but they are native to North America, and while the bird books show their range as not quite crossing the Canadian border, they have introduced themselves here and are often quite visible – Birds I view, p. 8.

As always, thank you to Jenny, Peter, Ken, Judy, and Brian for assistance with this newsletter.

**STAY COVID-SAFE.** Please wear a mask if you wish. Some indoor areas do require wearing a mask; for others it is a suggestion. Please be aware provincial requirements may change.

## president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Hello to all members of the DUCW. As Winnipeg continues to open up to normal schedules, so does your Club. We have had our usual events over the past 6 months or so, and members are appreciating being able to take advantage of that. Judy Powell has more events planned, as can be seen elsewhere in the *Yarn*, so do come out and join, in person, with old friends – you know you will be welcomed. And if you still feel comfortable with a mask on, as I most often do, feel free to be comfortable.

Both New Zealand and Australia have had to endure horrific storms and flooding over the past months. We hope no one in

the club has family or friends severely affected by these events.

Margaret and I are heading off to OZ next month to visit family and friends. It has been about 12 years since the last visit, and so we are really looking forward to getting there. (But not so much to 16 hours in a lumpy seat.) We expect to see a lot of changes in the country, but they still make Vegemite, so I will not complain. From a culinary point of view, I am most looking forward to a hot meat pie from a bakery, followed by many, many more. Best meat pie I ever had was from the bakery in Beechworth, Victoria; I just might have to check on them to see if that still holds true.

So, take care all, see you in the Spring,  
– Peter



Winnipeg's River Trail has been long on enjoyment this winter. Photo: Hydesmith

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## LYING BESIDE YOU by Michael Robotham

Cyrus Haven and Evie Cormac return in Robotham's latest page-turning, psychological thriller in this "gripping and eerie" (Karin Slaughter) series, reaffirming why Stephen King has proclaimed this author "an absolute master."

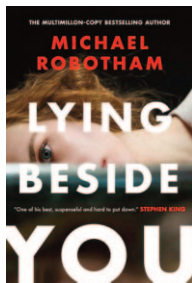
As a boy, Cyrus Haven survived a family massacre and slowly pieced his life back together. Now, after almost twenty years, his brother is applying to be released from a secure psychiatric hospital, and Cyrus is expected to forgive Elias and welcome him home.

Elias is returning to a very different world. Cyrus is now a successful psychologist, working with the police, and sharing his house with Evie Cormac, a damaged and gifted teenager who can tell when someone is lying. Evie has gone back to school and is working part-time at an inner-city bar, but she continues to struggle with authority and following rules.

When a man is murdered and his daughter disappears, Cyrus is called in to profile the killer and help piece together Maya Kirk's last hours. Police believe she was drugged and driven away from the same bar where Evie is working. Soon, a second victim is taken, and Evie is the only person who glimpsed the man behind the wheel.

But there's a problem. Only two people believe her. One is Cyrus. The other is the killer.

[SOURCE: Simon & Schuster web writeup  
-[Link]



## The Dunny by David K. Gilchrist

Thanks to Nancy and Terry  
for submitting the poem

Young David was a rancher's son;  
He fell in love with Mable. And he was bound to marry her  
As soon as he was able. She wanted bad to wed the lad,  
Except – it's rather funny – she couldn't stand their "Palace Grand",  
The family's ancient dunny.  
Though David pleaded with his dad,  
He would not build a new one.  
"Twas good enough for us", he said;  
"It's good enough for you, Son!"

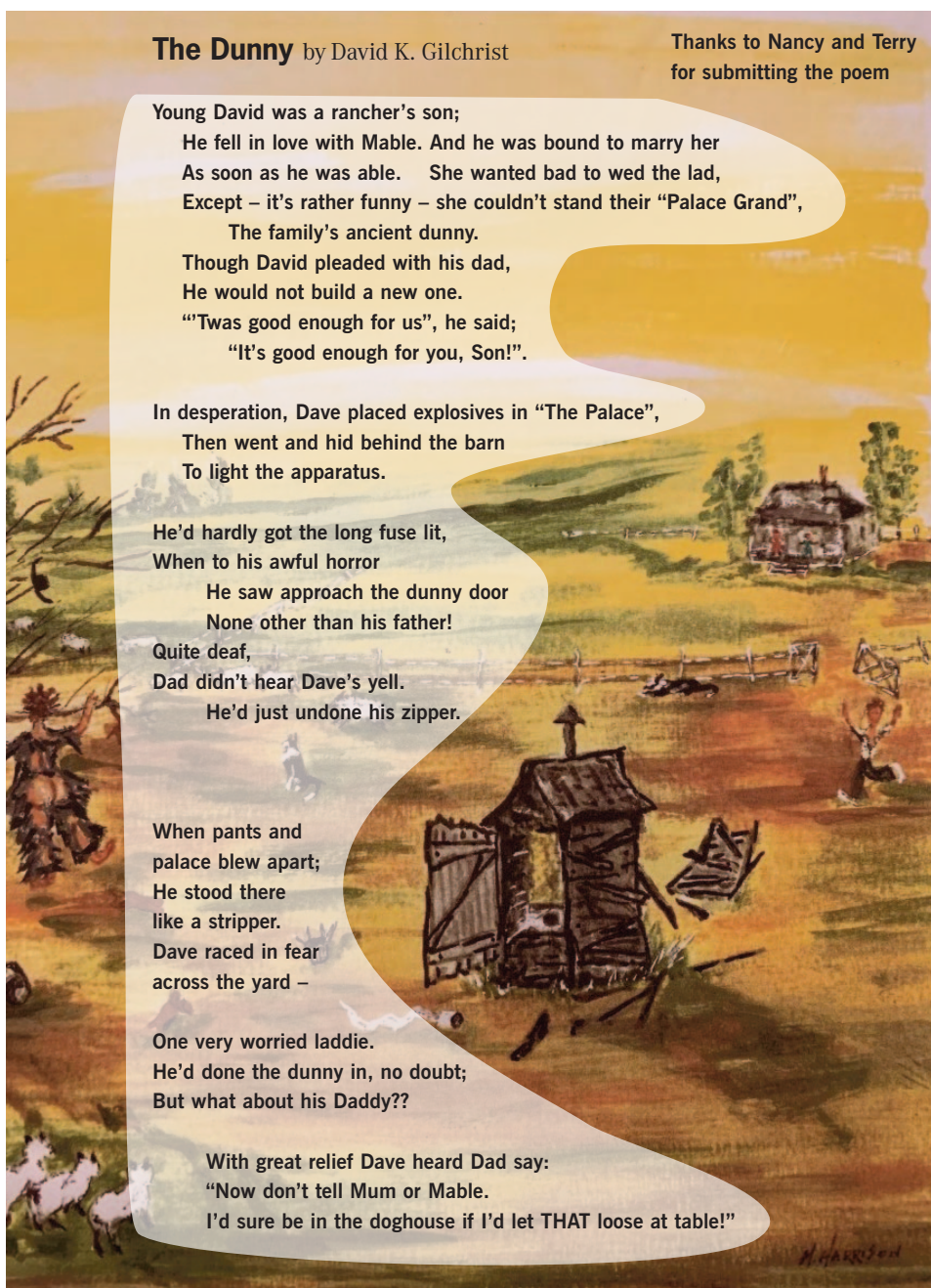
In desperation, Dave placed explosives in "The Palace",  
Then went and hid behind the barn  
To light the apparatus.

He'd hardly got the long fuse lit,  
When to his awful horror  
He saw approach the dunny door  
None other than his father!  
Quite deaf,  
Dad didn't hear Dave's yell.  
He'd just undone his zipper.

When pants and  
palace blew apart;  
He stood there  
like a stripper.  
Dave raced in fear  
across the yard –

One very worried laddie.  
He'd done the dunny in, no doubt;  
But what about his Daddy??

With great relief Dave heard Dad say:  
"Now don't tell Mum or Mable.  
I'd sure be in the doghouse if I'd let THAT loose at table!"



## The Hawke's Bay earthquake

In 1931, New Zealand's deadliest earthquake devastated the cities of Napier and Hastings. 256 people died in the magnitude 7.8 earthquake – 161 in Napier, 93 in Hastings, and 2 in Wairoa. Many thousands more required medical treatment. On Tuesday morning, 3 February 1931, at 10.47 a.m., the ground in the Hawke's Bay region heaved sharply upward and swayed. A deceptive half-minute pause was followed by a downward motion and violent shaking and rocking. In all, the quake spanned two and a half minutes. As buildings began to disintegrate, many people fled outdoors into a lethal rain of chunks from ornate facades, parapets and cornices. Buildings swayed violently, and their walls bulged and collapsed into the streets in avalanches of brick and masonry that crushed vehicles and people. Roofs caved in on buildings that had large open internal areas, such as churches, libraries and theatres. In some

## 90yearsAgo...

Historical gems worthy of sharing

buildings the internal floors pulled free of the swaying walls, collapsing inward in a jumble of girders, wood and plaster. In

Napier, the recently built Nurses' Home collapsed, killing clerical staff and off-duty nurses who were sleeping. In Hastings at least 50 people were in Roach's department store when it collapsed; 17 died and many were seriously injured. The entire front of the five-storey Grand Hotel in Hastings crumbled into Heretaunga Street, claiming eight lives. Fifteen died at the Park Island Old Men's Home near Taradale, but a 91-year-old man was pulled alive from the rubble three days later. Read more: The 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake – Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand

[Source: Eileen McSaveney, 'Historic earthquakes - The 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand]



## Oz News indeed!

The ABC News theme music started as a piece of sound-library music. Through reworks, remixes and generations of Australians growing up hearing it, the Majestic Fanfare, as it was called, has wedged itself into the Australian consciousness. Written in 1943 by British composer Charles Williams, the Majestic Fanfare wasn't really intended to be a stand-out piece, despite the fancy-sounding name. The ABC started using the Majestic Fanfare as the intro to the radio news bulletins in the early 1950s, replacing the shortened version of Advance Australia Fair that had been used prior. The same music was used before the TV news when the ABC expanded to television broadcasting in 1956, until it was replaced in 1985. Go to the *Yarn's* digital edition and listen to the WASO playing the music here: [ABC Perth] Majestic Fanfare - YouTube



## Animal war heroes

[Source: McDowall Veterinary Practice, QLD] On the eve of ANZAC day we thought it would be fitting to celebrate some of our heroic animals who have served with our armed forces. Throughout history animals have accompanied men and women into combat. It is estimated that more than 16 million animals served in WWI in various roles, all of which were beyond human capability.

Donkeys, horses and camels were used for modes of transport and to carry necessary supplies such as food, water, ammunition, medicine, and even the injured soldiers from the front line to medical huts for treatment. Pigeons and dogs were heavily relied on for communication during the WWI. They were used to send and receive messages between the allied forces, especially when the radio connections failed or were damaged in combat. They have also been known to initiate rescue efforts that would have otherwise had a very different outcome. Dogs also used their keen senses such as smell and hearing to not only sniff out bombs, but also to detect enemy aircraft.

Here are some inspirational stories where animals have gone above and beyond to work alongside soldiers, and risked their own lives whilst saving others.



## Simpson and his donkey

This is one of the most legendary stories in Anzac history during WWI. Shortly after landing in Gallipoli in 1915, Private John Simpson Kilpatrick befriended a desert donkey who was known by various nicknames including Murphy, Abdul and Duffy. The pair were regularly seen fearlessly carrying injured soldiers. Simpson loaded them onto the donkey's back and transported them from the frontline to the medical huts for treatment. They did this totally unarmed and were completely exposed to gunfire and shrapnel. It is said that they saved 300 men during their time together, and it is their selflessness and tenacity that embodied the Anzac spirit during the Gallipoli campaign. Murphy was later awarded the RSPCA's Purple Cross for heroism.

## The little known war heroes

Carrier pigeons were used in both WWI and II for communication. They were trained to send out messages from HQ to the front line. This was extremely important as the radio connection could not be fully relied upon as it often failed during combat. Two pigeons were famously awarded the Dickin Medal in 1947 while serving with the Australian Armed Forces during WWII. Their heroism occurred in 1945 when Army Boat 1402 containing Australian troops crashed onto the coast of Wadou beach in the Solomon seas. The soldiers were completely isolated with no form of communication, and sent out their only hope in the form of one brave pigeon. The pigeon whose only identity is DD.43.T.139, was sent out to brave the harsh conditions of a tropical storm with dangerous winds and torrential rain to deliver the

request for rescue. Amazingly he managed to not only deliver the message, but he did it in 50 minutes covering 40 miles! The rescue mission was a success and the precious cargo, soldiers and ammunition were saved. He went on to perform another 24 successful flights, making him a fitting recipient of the honour.

## Man's best friend

We all know that our dogs can be extremely smart and courageous in everyday lives, as seen with Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs for the hearing impaired and disabled, and Therapy Dogs as used in the many cases of PTSD. Dogs have also played major roles during armed conflict with numerous accounts of their bravery. I have included the story below to highlight one of our courageous four legged friends.

## SMOKY THE YORKSHIRE TERRIER - WAR DOG HERO



## Smoky the Yorkie

A tiny little Yorkshire terrier known as Smoky, weighing in at only 1.8 kg, fought alongside Australian troops in WWII. In 1945 he worked with engineers to lay important communication wires underneath a 21 meter wide airstrip in the Philippines. A string was tied to Smoky's collar so that he was able to lead the wire through the pipe all the way to the other end in only minutes, a task that would have taken the soldiers three days to complete. Due to this amazing feat, the teletype and phone lines were enabled between the US and Allied forces.

It was later when a Corporal became seriously ill with Dengue fever and Smoky slept alongside him in the hospital bed for companionship that the idea was formed for the use of dogs in therapy. From here Smoky served in the 42nd General Hospital in Brisbane as the first documented therapy dog for returning soldiers with post traumatic stress. This courageous little canine was awarded the RSPCA's Purple Cross for his outstanding service. [Link]



## Did you know?

Haast's Eagle was an extinct species that once lived in the South Island of Aotearoa New Zealand. Commonly accepted to be the pouakai of Māori legend, it was the largest eagle known to have existed, with an estimated weight of 15 kilograms! Fun fact: they were so big, the Haast's Eagle preyed on Moa. To put this in perspective, the tibia of a Moa was bigger than a human tibia as per an exhibit at The Dunedin Museum of Natural Mystery (yes, the true name) in Dunedin, NZ. Worth a visit, eh? [Thanks to Rex Parker (aka Michael Sharp), host of his *New York Times* Crossword Puzzle blog, for this gem of information. The *Yarn* editor's wife has been known to frequent this blog site.]

## 200<sup>th</sup> kiwi goes wild

[Information courtesy of nzherald.co.nz] Hundreds turned up at events to celebrate the 200th release of kiwi that have been reared on Matakohē Island. Six accredited kiwi handlers caught five kiwi – three females and two males – at dawn on the island before bringing them to the mainland for release. Each bird was fitted with an ID chip and transmitter to monitor their health and dispersal upon release. Matakohē is a "Kiwi Creche" where 10-day old chicks are reared until they weigh around 1250 grams, and are strong enough to fight off predators. They are then taken to the mainland and released at various sites within an 11,000 hectare pest-controlled area, courtesy of Tutuakaka Landcare and Backyard Kiwi.

## After the storm

Cyclone Gabrielle has been described as the worst storm to hit New Zealand this century, with severity and damage unprecedented. New Zealand declared a national state of emergency as the cyclone battered the north island of the country. Widespread major floods trapped people on roofs, thousands of people were displaced and landslides destroyed roads and homes. There have been multiple deaths and injuries, and rescue efforts and cleanups continue.



## The incredible story of recovery

Four years after suffering a major brain injury, Kiwi Ben Lott completed the world's hardest kayak race, the Yukon 1000, with friend Scott Worthington.

In 2018, Ben fell and suffered a severe brain injury during an adventure race in Fiordland. Over the following months, the

28-year-old's condition deteriorated, as he lost his speech, his balance, his job, his partner, friends, and his future dreams.

He shut himself in his bedroom, unable to cope with light, noise, and the fact his life was seemingly over. But with the help of friends, family, and the healing power of the outdoors, Ben defied the doctors and began making a remarkable recovery.

One of those who accompanied him on this journey and helped him reach the finish line was Scott Worthington. This fellow adventure racer found Ben shortly after his accident and then stayed beside him over the next four years, taking Ben back into the mountains where he was happiest.

When doctors advised Ben not to have any goals, Scott insisted that was rubbish, and encouraged Ben to aim for something bold. So in July 2022, the pair lined up at the start of the world's longest and hardest kayak race, the Yukon 1000, where competitors travel 1,000 miles (1,600 km) down the Yukon River, through the remotest regions of Canada and Alaska.

It was the ultimate test of Ben's recovery, and a challenge many said would be beyond him. His incredible and inspiring story is told in *Finding Ben*, a documentary by Mike White and Iain McGregor. Duration: 28 minutes. [Link]

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**LEFT:**  
**Margaret Munn**  
Moroccan-spiced  
lamb-chickpea  
soup. [Link]

**RIGHT:**  
**Judy Powell**  
Hungarian  
mushroom soup.



## RecipestoTry

opening up new culinary adventures

## Soup recipes

### North African Lamb, Chickpea and Bulgur Soup

This savory soup is a meal in itself, but warm, crusty bread is a perfect paring.

Start to finish: 45 minutes

Servings: 4

- 1 tablespoon ras el hanout (see opposite)
- 4 teaspoons dried mint
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 12 ounces ground lamb
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 bunch scallions, thinly sliced, whites and greens reserved separately
- 1 celery stalk, including leaves if present, finely chopped
- 6 medium garlic cloves, chopped
- ¼ cup tomato paste
- 15½-ounce can chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- ¾ cup coarse bulgur
- 2 medium ripe tomatoes, cored and chopped

In a medium bowl, stir together the ras el hanout, mint, ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper. Add the lamb and 3 tablespoons water, then mix with your hands until well combined; set aside.

In a large pot over medium-high, heat the oil until shimmering. Add the scallion whites, the celery, garlic and ½ teaspoon salt. Cook, stirring often, until the vegetables have softened, about 2 minutes. Add the tomato paste and cook, stirring, until the paste is well browned, about 3 minutes. Add the chickpeas and cook, stirring occasionally, until the chickpeas are completely coated with tomato paste, 2 to 3 minutes.

Add 6 cups water, scraping up any browned bits. Cover the pot and bring to a boil over high, then stir in the bulgur. Using your fingers, break off grape-sized chunks of the lamb mixture, dropping them into the pot as you go. Stir, cover and bring to a simmer. Reduce to medium and simmer, covered and stirring occasionally, until the bulgur is tender and the meatballs are no longer pink at the center, about 12 minutes. Off heat, stir in the scallion greens and the tomatoes. Taste and season with salt and pepper. [Link]

And now for the ras el hanout (Moroccan spice mix):

- 2 teaspoons ground nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons ground coriander
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 2 teaspoons turmeric
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1½ teaspoons sugar
- 1½ teaspoons paprika
- 1½ teaspoons ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon cardamom powder
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves

Mix all the spices together. Store in an airtight container. [Link]

### Hungarian Mushroom Soup

This Hungarian Mushroom Soup with fresh dill is rich, with hints of smokiness and a great umami flavor. It's the perfect bowl of soup to warm up with this season!

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 large onion diced
- 1 pound mushrooms sliced white, cremini and/or a mix of wild mushrooms like chanterelles
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 3 cups stock (vegetable, chicken, or bone broth)
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 cup 2% milk
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill or 2 tsp. dried dill
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste

Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat, add the onions and mushrooms and cook until the mushrooms have released their liquids and it has evaporated, about 10-15 minutes.

Mix in the flour and paprika and let it cook for 2-3 minutes.

Add the stock, soy sauce and milk, bring to a gentle boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 10 minutes.

Remove from heat and mix in the sour cream, lemon juice, dill and parsley. Season to taste with salt and pepper. [Link]



### Did you know why it is called "Violet Crumble"?

Mr Hoadley, the legend behind the shatteringly brilliant recipe, named it after his wife's favourite flower. And the chocolate coating? – to keep the honeycomb from absorbing moisture and losing its crispy crunch.

## Address violence against women

A new report by the Commonwealth Secretariat calls on policymakers from Pacific countries to consider adopting laws requiring bystanders to report online violence against women and girls.

The report was released at a conference, hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat in Papua New Guinea's capital Port Moresby from 7-9 February, on building effective anti-cybercrime frameworks in the Pacific region.

Drawing on extensive research and expert analysis, the report finds that existing safety laws tend to focus on direct perpetrators and ignore the damaging role played by bystanders. It investigates the role and culpability of bystanders as co-perpetrators who participate in violent acts against women and girls in cyberspace.

The report reveals that laws in many Pacific countries do not require witnesses of online abuse to report it to the authorities. The report calls on countries to enact new legislation or amend existing statutes to legally require bystanders to take lawful action to combat such abuse.

The report analyses guidance on navigating the challenges in its creation and the complexities in its enforcement, given the often anonymous and transnational nature of online abuse and its enablers.

Speaking about the report, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, said:

"We need a new culture, where violence is no longer tolerated and is called out and reported to ensure that the internet becomes a safer space for women and girls. Regulations which persuade bystanders to take proactive steps to report incidences of online harm will be an important tool in instilling that culture."

The report calls for a multi-faceted approach towards ending online abuse against women and girls, including mandating companies to police their sites and incorporate safety features, including encouraging their users to report abuse to the authorities.

## Role models for sport policy

Members of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Sport for the Development and Peace team, together with the appointed consultants Thuso Group, have met with the Hon Samal Mojah Duggins, Minister with Responsibility for Sport and Culture (Creative Economy), and other dignitaries in St Kitts and Nevis to help support the implementation of the nation's National Sport Policy.

The Caribbean nation recently began pushing forward with the implementation of the National Sports Policy and Strategic Plan 2022-2026, which seeks to enhance citizens involvement in sports and physical activity, expand the role and influence of sports across various sectors, and foster the profes-

sional development of athletes.

It also outlines the obligations of public and private sector stakeholders to work together to utilise sport as an effective tool for sustainable development, peace-building and improving health outcomes.

The Commonwealth Secretariat has been providing technical support for the implementation of the National Sports Policy, which was originally due to launch in 2020, but delayed due to COVID-19.

Members of the media were briefed on the ambitious objectives at a press conference on 9 February.

Speaking ahead of the launch, Mr. Layne Robinson, Head of Social Policy Development, Economic, Youth & Sustainable Development Directorate at the Commonwealth Secretariat, said: "The Commonwealth believes that sport for development and peace can contribute to improving health and education, creating employment, stimulating economic development, and realising human rights and gender equality.

"Our work to strengthen the national sport policy and strategic plan should accelerate the benefits that can be realised from investing in sport. With the support of the government and stakeholders, we believe St Kitts and Nevis can become a model for other Commonwealth countries on how to effectively harness the power of sport for development and peace. We look forward to the next steps from our technical support."

## readthis

New Zealand literature

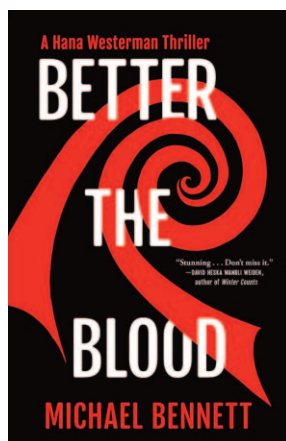
*Better the Blood* is an extraordinary murder mystery from Māori screenwriter, director and author Michael Bennett.

Six British soldiers gaze out of the ancient daguerreotype at one of the first cameras ever used in New Zealand, atop a sacred mountain overlooking what would become Auckland. Behind them the naked corpse of a Māori chief revered by his people hangs by his neck from a tree. 160 years later, descendants of those six soldiers are being murdered ritually, one by one by one.

The case falls to senior police detective Hana Westerman, a Māori single mother who forever bears the shame of what she did on that same mountain in front of that same tree 18 years before.

As a rookie cop, Westerman obeyed orders from senior whites that deliberately sent Māori officers into a peaceful land rights protest. Now it's up to her to sleuth who is performing the ritual murders and stop them before anyone else dies.

Westerman is already in a world of hurt. She persuaded an Indigenous woman to testify against the affluent white law student who drugged and raped her. He walks away with a suspended sentence, his identity protected by the court because, of course, it would be wrong to destroy a promising career and successful life for such a fine young lad.



He immediately swears vengeance against Westerman, and says he knows about her 17-year-old daughter, and where to find her. He even injures himself, accusing Westerman of police brutality.

Meanwhile, Hana's daughter is going through her own rebellion, using considerable musical gifts to educate young people about the systemic oppression of Māoris. That her father is white, and Westerman's boss... well, that adds to the awkwardness.

There is a lot of history woven into *Better the Blood*, but woven it is, not hammered into the reader in long polemic discourse.

Bennett tells us that it is the common practice in New Zealand courts for land claims to be settled at two per cent of the value of what was taken from the Indigenous people. He tells us Māoris now are only 14 per cent of the population, but occupy 50 per cent of the prison cells.

If it sounds familiar, that's because it is. Above all, *Better the Blood* is an outstanding murder mystery and police procedural, set in an exotic setting on the other side of the world.

The characters are exceptional, their motives and doubts all so magnificently drawn, so many of them strangers in a strange land in their own land.

[SOURCE: Book Review by Nick Martin, *Winnipeg Free Press*, Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023]





Wild Turkey photo by C. Powell

## North American Wild Turkey

The wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) is an upland ground bird native to North America, one of two extant species of turkey and the heaviest member of the order Galliformes. It is the ancestor to the domestic turkey, which was originally derived from a southern Mexican subspecies of wild turkey. (Wikipedia)

They have been observed foraging along with deer and also occasionally with squirrels – even playing. This symbiosis increases their chances of not being surprised by predators – deer have a good sense of smell while turkeys have very good eyesight. Their range is mostly restricted to the United States, but they are not uncommon north of the border, including along the Red River through Winnipeg.

The photo above was taken in south-east Manitoba last April when I spotted a tom and his harem feeding between the road and the bush-line. Of course when I stopped they became wary and headed for cover, so my photo of the tom is a bit too blurry to include here.

Apart from being about twice the size of their Australian cousin (the Australian brush/scrub-turkey – see the April 2018 *Yarn*), another big difference is in their nesting habit. Nests are just shallow dirt depressions lined with woody vegetation where the hens lay a clutch of 10–14 eggs. Down under, a huge mound of temperature-controlled organic matter is used to incubate and hatch the eggs.

Benjamin Franklin had an opinion on the turkey being a more apt symbol for America. “The idea that Benjamin Franklin preferred the turkey as the national bird of the United States comes from a letter he wrote to his daughter Sarah Bache on 26 January 1784. The main subject of the letter is a criticism of the Society of the Cincinnati, which he likened to a chivalric order, which contradicted the ideals of the newly founded American republic. In one section of the letter, Frank-

lin remarked on the appearance of the bald eagle on the Society’s crest:

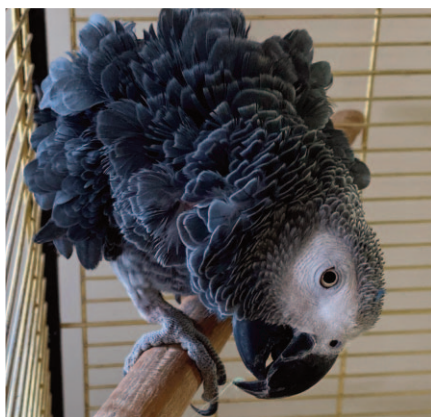
‘Others object to the Bald Eagle, as looking too much like a Dindon, or Turkey. For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk [osprey]; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish, and is bearing it to his Nest for the Support of his Mate and young Ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him. With all this Injustice, he is never in good Case but like those among Men who live by Sharping & Robbing he is generally poor and often very lousy. Besides he is a rank Coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the District. He is therefore by no means a proper Emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our Country.

‘I am on this account not displeased that the Figure is not known as a Bald Eagle, but looks more like a Turkey. For in Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America ... He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on.’

Franklin never publicly voiced opposition to the bald eagle as a national symbol, nor did he ever publicly suggest the turkey as a national symbol.” (Wikipedia)

## Ornithoscopia

Cecil, a 25-year-old African Grey parrot, has a surprising ability to learn and share sounds he hears, including doors, footsteps, and many audible devices that are part of daily living. He lives (indoors) on Bowen Island, BC. Photo: Hydesmith



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