

The Southern Yarn

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

May-June 2023

downundercalendar

MAY

Sunday Brunch
Sunday, May 21, 9:00 am
Miss Browns, Hargrave Street
Market, upstairs from True North
Square plaza, Winnipeg

More delicious food – and Miss Browns now serves yummy smoothies! A return visit for Sunday morning brunch, gathering once again at Miss Browns where we are accommodated at two reserved long tables away from the crowds and can enjoy an unhurried time for catching up. And free parking downtown on Sundays.

Please RSVP by May 15 (see below).

JULY

Pool Party
Saturday, July 8, 3:30 pm
57 D'Arcy Drive, south Winnipeg

Please note that the Pool Party will be on a **Saturday** this year. Lynley and family have offered their pool and backyard for this eagerly anticipated summer social occasion for our members and families. In addition to the swimming and socialising, there will be a backyard barbecue. The Club will provide the burgers, hotdogs and buns. Members attending are asked to bring their own drinks, and an accompanying dish to share – salad, pasta or desserts. Let Lynley know the ages of children attending, so quantities of burgers, etc., can be calculated. Remember your RSVP! If you plan to attend, please call Lynley at 204-269-1510, leave a voicemail, or by email to social@downunderclub.mb.ca

RSVP for all events:

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

STAY COVID-SAFE. Please test yourself, especially if you have symptoms, and wear a mask at group events if you wish.



ANZAC Day Remembrance

One of the highlights of our Club calendar is when we remember the original ANZACs, the veterans and current serving members of the New Zealand and Australian armed forces wherever they are, or were, based. We reflect upon those who lost their lives, as well as the founding members of the Down Under Club of Winnipeg.

For decades, the late Gordon Keatch arranged the formal part of this memorial, the parading of colours, the padre's services, the readings, and the Last Post and Reveille. There are all now capably overseen by **Peter M,**

Charlie and Jenny.

Originally an outdoor parade and memorial event, it has for many years been conducted indoors.

This year, more than thirty members and families met at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre on Saturday April 22, for the formal parade, followed by a social time and delicious potluck meal.

Our thanks especially to our younger members – **Kalvin and Zaemia Keating** and **Ryan and Owen Davidson** – who took part as flag bearers and readers, and to all who participated, including the cooks, the helpers, and the enthusiasm of the "Two-up" callers and the winners!



Dan's Café and Lounge

It's always a good thing to support local businesses, and a Club visit to Dan's Café and Lounge on Sunday afternoon March 12, ticked a few boxes, including great coffee and sampling some delicious desserts. We were delighted to be accommodated by Helen and her staff at Dan's, corner of Graham Mall and Edmonton Street, where eighteen Club members spent a couple of hours socialising in the lounge space.

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



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

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



*Spring has sprung,
The sun is ris,
I wonder where the birdies is...*

They will no doubt be flocking through soon, mostly on their way further north. Thankfully some regulars have stayed around through the winter months – chickadees and nuthatches – and visit our feeders daily.

We took a walk through Kings Park a couple of weeks ago and saw a fleet of pelicans on the river (more than 100). Some were perched on bits of remaining ice. Further along the track, Judy was buzzed by a cheeky chickadee. Luckily, she had come prepared with some black sunflower seeds in her pocket and was soon treated to that unique pleasure of having them feed from her hand. Birds I view this issue is about wood ducks (p.8).

Elsewhere you will find quite a variety of (hopefully) interesting reading. Thanks to those who suggested a story, including Jude McCudden, whose poem is on p.7. It's also good – thanks to Judy's facilitating – that this newsletter can report on some fun and well-attended post-covid (?) club gatherings.

Don't forget to consider our advertisers when you have a legal, reno or travel need. Thanks also again to **Jenny, Brian, Peter, Judy, Ed, Dean and Jude.**

What's with those funny pattern boxes?

Leading readers to website addresses from a printed or even online document can be problematic, partly because the addresses, known as URLs, are notoriously long. They take up a lot of room, and transcribing them is both tedious and prone to errors.

To the rescue comes the venerable Quick Reponse, more simply QR, code. They've been around for more than 20 years, but

after slow initial uptake, they're again gaining public acceptance. The unique patterns are able to input the required data via the camera of your smart phone and lead you to the website, no typing required. Give it a try! Point your phone's camera at the patterns and click on the links we want to share with you. Let us know what you think!

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Margaret and I just returned from a one month stay in Oz. It was a family and friends' vacation, with little or no time for sightseeing and travelling to new destinations. Most of the time was spent with my brother and his wife, and their family from Merimbula, on the south coast of NSW. It had been 13 years since the last visit, so there was a lot to catch up on.

One of my niece's boys has been playing regularly this year with Richmond in the AFL, and continues to improve with every game. We went to a night game at the MCG to watch him play against Collingwood. It is an amazing experience to attend a game there, so loud and filled with energy. It was hard to miss him on the ground; he is 6'8", and still growing. Samson Ryan, #32, if you are a Richmond fan. We also caught up with an old next-door neighbour that we correspond with, but haven't seen since I was a child growing up in Footscray. In Sydney, we spent a day cruising around Pittwater with our best man, last seen more than 20 years ago.

I noted a whole bunch of changes in Melbourne. The downtown has obviously grown sideways and upwards, and the skyline is

very impressive. But maybe the biggest change I noticed was how easy it was to move around the city, with the addition of so many more freeways, above and below ground. It was noticeable also that the traffic moved almost at the same speed, there was negligible cutting in and passing. One reason I established was that there were many speed cameras, with high fines. Unfortunately, one apparently is coming my way!

The time to travel the 7,000+ miles over the Pacific is still long, even with modern jets able to make it a non-stop flight. For caution, we wore N95 masks both ways. On the way across, there was ominous coughing coming from a passenger, unmasked, just a few feet away from us. Not sure whether she was the culprit, but both Margaret and I ended up with Covid a few days later, and shared it with our hosts. Luckily, with five shots under our belts, we were not affected badly.

All in all, a good trip, and ready for another any time.

Peter

**THROW AWAY YOUR COATS
THIS CHRISTMAS AND SOAK
UP THE SUN...**

in beautiful PHUKET and bustling BANGKOK. 13 Days for C\$4695 per person including all flights (ex Calgary return), Beachfront Accommodations, Daily Breakfasts and a few day tours too!

Check out the full details here <https://downunder-travel.com/trip/xmas-in-thailand/>
Limited Seats – Max 34 Passengers – Currently 18 seats left available

*Contact us for additional rates for families and adults-only.

For more info:
www.downundertravel.com

**More than
40 years'
South Pacific
experience**

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

Aussie Passport good news ...

Some time ago there was some talk that the Australian High Commission (AHC) may look at accepting passport renewals by mail, rather than in person by appointment in Vancouver, Toronto or Ottawa.

I would occasionally check the AHC in Ottawa website, and recently I noticed that passport renewals can now be done by mail, provided several listed criteria are met. This mail-in renewal system has only been active since October 2022, so a fairly recent change.

Fortunately, both Charlie and I were eligible, so I embarked on the process.

NOTE: Our Australian passports expired a little over two years ago, but I believe that expired passports can be renewed inside three years without going to extra lengths.

Basically, you have to:

- set up a secure **account** on the AHC website <https://canada.highcommission.gov.au/otwa/passports.html>
- go to passport *renewals* and scroll down to point (4) **renewal by mail**,
- complete and print the online application for renewal; sign and date as instructed,
- print the cover sheet, and credit card authorization; complete and sign as instructed,
- provide two passport *photos*, following the printed guidelines (the “old” passport is not required; eventually you will get notice that it has been cancelled), and
- *mail/submit* everything to the Vancouver Consulate office (for Manitoba residents).

If you're like me and a bit hesitant and unfamiliar with words used on secure online websites, as well as with all the negotiating back and forth, you might experience some angst with the process. But it's worth persisting, especially considering the alternative.

One point I noted was that I had filled in all information required on the application form but, when I prompted the computer to “print”, two extra lines popped up regarding birth certificate info and numbers! I telephoned the Consulate office in Vancouver and the officer told me to ignore this – that particular information is not required and he didn't know why this always happened. Don't write anything in those spaces, just leave them blank.



Eventually, we made it through the system and sent our applications package by registered mail to the Oz Consulate in Vancouver. This is the only mail-in application point for Manitobans. The address and contact numbers are listed on the website, along with the fees.

Currently (March 2023), the fees charged for a mail-in renewal are Adult Passport \$297, Adult Surcharge \$134, plus \$7 postage, for a total of \$438.

Once the documents were received in Vancouver, they were dealt with immediately, thus we learned by telephone that there was a problem with Charlie's photos. And based on our conversation with the Consulate staffer, here is some advice re passport photos BEFORE you submit them:

- make sure there is no “streaking” on the images – something that showed when they were examined at the Consulate; check them carefully before you leave the store (I took the printed info pages with me to discuss with the photographer);
- make sure they are sized correctly – the Australian requirement for size is different to the Canadian requirement, so be sure the photographer follows the Aus Gov dimensions;
- make sure one of the images has space on the back to print your full name in black ink – no smudges. Often the photographer has a stamp to allow for that;
- as a double check, ask the photographer to email you a jpeg image, which can then be emailed to the Consulate Office if necessary.

The website has a lot of detailed info about the photos and all the forms required, so be sure to spend the time reading everything before you submit. And if you have any questions, contact the Consulate at +1-613-236-0841 during their regular business hours to get them answered before sending in your applications. We found them to be extremely helpful during the entire process.

Our documents were sent away for processing on March 2nd. Just three weeks later, we received emails that our passports were “on the way”. They arrived by registered mail on March 23rd. And now we are set for another 10 years.

– Judy Powell



Australia's new passport features an antenna and hidden images

The Australian Passport Office has started rolling out its new R Series passport, which features images of native animals hidden throughout. But it's not for design purposes – they're actually a high-tech security feature.

If you're applying for a new passport in 2023, here's what you need to know.

It is international best practice for countries to update their passports every 5-10 years to improve security features and refresh the design. “The transition to the R Series is necessary now to continue to ensure the safety of Australians' identities to the highest possible standards,” DFAT says.

DFAT also says this transition has been planned since 2015. “To thwart document fraud, we must regularly upgrade the Australian passport's security features.”

Australia's previous P Series passport has been in use since 2014. The new passport's elaborate design makes the documents harder to forge, DFAT says.

Your photo now appears twice on Australia's new passport. And the new photo page is made of tough, high-security, layered plastic known as polycarbonate.

A passport chip is embedded on the right side, which features three parallel lines running across it. These lines are the antenna.

The passport's visa pages feature 17 prints of popular landscapes from around the country. But when placed under ultraviolet light, each print transforms into a night-scape and features hidden species of native fauna. The R Series also continues the inclusion of Indigenous artwork into Australian passports. Your current passport will remain a highly secure travel document until it expires, but keep in mind that some airlines and foreign governments require travellers to carry passports with at least six months' validity beyond their planned stay.

Remember to check the entry requirements of the countries you plan to visit or transit through before you travel.

If you're applying for a new passport this year, be wary of potential delays. Allow a minimum of six weeks to get a new passport, according to DFAT.

When it comes to accessing visa-free travel, our passport is one of the world's most powerful. It's ranked on the 8th tier alongside Canada, Greece and Malta, behind 22 other countries on higher tiers, according to the latest Henley & Partners Passport Index.

BTW, Australians are able to visit 185 countries without a visa.

Peter Norman, remembered

Peter Norman's 200 metres time of 20.06 sec still stands as an Australian record, but in the '68 Olympics in Mexico City it earned him a Silver medal spot on the podium between two black American athletes – Tommie Smith and John Carlos. They had pre-planned to make a statement to protest the racism that was ravaging the USA at that time. One of their chosen symbols was black gloves. When Carlos realized he forgotten to bring his pair to the track, they thought their plan was doomed – until Norman quietly suggested that they wear one glove each ... and thus his legacy was established.



The 1968 medal ceremony. Credit: AP.



The Montevideo Maru was sunk by an American submarine off the coast of the Philippine island of Luzon. (AAP/Australian War Memorial, file photo)

Australia's worst maritime disaster found

[SOURCE: Brianna Morris-Grant, ABC News] The ship at the centre of the worst maritime disaster in Australia's history has been discovered more than 4,000 metres beneath the sea, 81 years after it sank.

Japanese transport ship SS *Montevideo Maru* sank with about 979 Australian troops and civilians on July 1, 1942, off the coast of the Philippines. It was torpedoed by an American submarine that didn't know it was carrying prisoners of war and civilians captured in Rabaul. In total, about 1,060 prisoners were lost, including 850 service members and 210 civilians from 14 countries.

The location of the wreck has remained a mystery for decades – until now. SS *Montevideo Maru* was found after 12 days of searching in the South China Sea by a team led by not-for-profit Silentworld Foundation, deep-sea survey specialists Fugro and supported by the Department of Defence.



Space tucker

[SOURCE: Amanda Freeman] In a project headed by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Australian bush tucker is being investigated as a nutritious food option to sustain astronauts in space. Humans need a mix of food flavours, textures and colours to make sure they're well-nourished, enjoy food and feel satisfied at the end of a meal. But variety is hard to supply in space. That's where the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria comes in to lead the Australian pilot of Growing Beyond Earth (GBE), a program designed and implemented by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in the United States. It's a citizen science venture in which schools are helping NASA find plants to grow in space.



Proud and fond memories

[SOURCE: *Stuff*, Deena Coster, 29Mar2023] Not many people can say they travelled in a limo with a former US president, let alone had the chance to sit down with him over a few beers at the pub, but a Taranaki man's memories of his time with Jimmy Carter are amongst the best of his life.

"You had to pinch yourself really," said Cliff McDonald, who spent time with Carter during his visit to Palmerston North in February 1984.

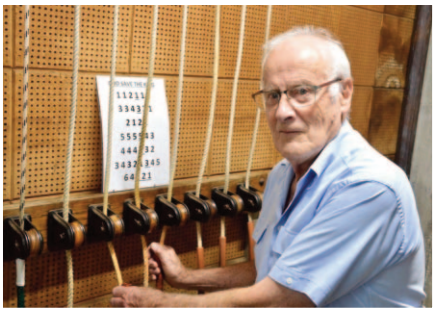
Now 98, Carter, who served as president between 1977-1981, remains in hospice care after stopping further treatment for cancer. McDonald, who lives in Waitara, was previously the president of the Palmerston North Lions Club when they were on the hunt for a guest speaker for the Lloyd Morgan Lions Club charitable trust dinner. At the time, Morgan was the only New Zealander to have served as an international Lions president and had previously visited the White House and met Carter's wife Rosalynn.



Farewell, Friend

Our friend Norm Griffiths passed away in late March. Norm was completely committed to the DUCW and attended most meetings and many events over the years. He and his family were also active performers and volunteers in our Folklorama pavilions. Several years back, he took on the role of Membership Coordinator, maintained the membership list, and mailed out issues of *The Southern Yarn* – initially with Gordon Keatch, and then on his own. He and wife Debbie, who predeceased Norm a few years back, particularly enjoyed the key Club events – Australia Day and Waitangi Day, ANZAC Day, the formal dinner, the AGM, and the Christmas Party. Debbie was a wonderful baker, and treated us to some incredible cakes over the years. Several members of the DUCW attended Norm's service at the end of April, and in addition to the final song appropriately being Slim Dusty's rendition of "Waltzing Matilda", we got to meet some of his family and appreciate their strong bond with Norm. Rest easy, friend.





Bells will ring

[SOURCE: *Daily Encourager*] Church bells that welcomed Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh to Lower Hutt's newest church in 1954 rang out on 6 May to celebrate the coronation of their son as King Charles III.

St James' Anglican Church had been open less than a month when this short stop-over was a late addition to the royal couple's visit to the Hutt Valley during their historic 1953-1954 tour of New Zealand. It was the first time a reigning British monarch had set foot on New Zealand soil. The monarch is also head of the world's Anglican Church.

St James' Church had been formally dedicated on 21 December 1953 and replaced a traditional church gutted by fire in 1946. But Canon Bill Bretton, the vicar, was keen to break with tradition. The church hired an architect who came up with a modern design. The result was an uncluttered interior and lots of natural lighting, features the royals commented on when they visited in early January 1954.

They were welcomed by a crowd of local dignitaries and the public, and the ringing of the newly-installed bells in the church's 20 m tower. Among the parish teenagers watching the Queen's visit was Graeme Ross. He has only vague memories of the coronation the previous year and thinks he listened to it on the radio. A year or so later Graeme and several others were trained to ring the bells. More than 60 years later, Graeme is the only member of that group still ringing the bells at St James.



Kiwis can obviously laugh at themselves

An Aussie bloke is having a quiet drink in a bar. He leans over to the big guy next to him and says, "Do you wanna hear a Kiwi joke?" The big guy replies, "Well, mate, before you tell that joke, you should know something. I'm 1.90m tall, 125 kg and I played as a forward for the All Blacks. The guy next to me is 1.85m, weighs 115 kg and he's an ex-All Black lock. Next to him is a bloke who's 2m tall, weighs 120 kg and he's a current All Black second rower. Now do you still want to tell that Kiwi joke?" The Aussie bloke says, "Nah, not if I'm going to have to explain it three times."



And for some balance ...

An Aussie guy was recently unfortunate to lose a thousand dollars on the big horse race of the year, The Melbourne Cup. He was even more unfortunate to lose another thousand dollars on the replay.

I just watched an Aussie cooking show and the audience cheered when the chef made meringue. I was surprised. Usually Aussies boo meringue.

NZ's deadliest earthquake

In 1931, New Zealand's deadliest earthquake devastated the cities of Napier and Hastings.

80yearsAgo...

Historical gems worthy of sharing

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 such as churches, libraries and theatres. 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 a hotel in Hastings crumbled, claiming eight lives. Fifteen died at an Old Men's Home, but a 91-year-old man was pulled alive from the rubble three days later.



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



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**



A Few Things About Vegemite

Looking to stock up? We've updated the previous info from the January *Yarn*, AND we answer that age old question – is Vegemite banned in Canada?

You can absolutely get Vegemite at:

1. **Stonewall Family Foods** – before you make the trip, phone or email to make sure it's in stock – 330 3 Ave S – swfamilyfoods@gmail.com or 204-467-5553
2. **British Food Co.** – 3125 Portage Ave – <https://britishfoodco.ca/>

You might be able to get it at:

A few sharp-eyed members have spotted Vegemite in other locations throughout the city, including Family Foods and Save-on-Foods, but that appears to be very hit-and-miss, and neither chains currently list Vegemite on their websites.

You can also order online at:

1. **The Australian Food Shop** – <https://theaustralianfoodshop.com/>
2. **Great Aussie Food** – <https://www.greataussiefood.com/>

They also stock chocolates, Milo, biscuits and lollies, and a bunch of other treats and eats, and while it's definitely more expensive, they do have deals from time to time ... and it's cheaper than a return airfare to Oz.

And now, the big question ... Is Vegemite banned in Canada or not

We reached out to the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency (CFIA), and received the following response:

"The CFIA has in the past instructed retailers to remove Vegemite manufactured by Kraft Australia from Canadian retailers' shelves due to vitamin fortification and minerals being in excess of the limits established by Health Canada.

"Since then, Bega Cheese of Australia is the new owner of the Vegemite brand. At this time, Bega has chosen to not distribute Vegemite in Canada. If Bega were to re-formulate some lots of the product in order to meet the Canadian standards, the product could be sold at retail in Canada.

"That being said, the Canadian Food and Drug Act and Regulations allow consumers to purchase food, for personal consumption, that does not meet the Canadian standards."

Not as conclusive as I had hoped in that it doesn't explain why the stores listed above are able to stock it, but not others. I'm guessing it's because the amount ordered falls below what is considered a commercial import.

In any case, we can at least continue to get it here and on any trips to Oz, and we'll let you know if there are any changes at Bega that sees Vegemite more widely available in Manitoba, although I wouldn't count on that.

100yearsAgo...

Historical gems worthy of sharing

[SOURCE: ABC Ballarat, Laura Mayers] In Australia in 1923, World War I had ended five years earlier, Billy Hughes was replaced as prime minister by Stanley Bruce, and Australians were getting their first taste of broadcast radio. It was the year industrial chemist and food technologist Cyril Percy Callister was commissioned to create a yeast-extract spread to rival British-made Marmite. After trialing the production of a rich and salty spread from brewer's yeast crafted through a complicated preservation process, Dr Callister introduced the thick inky spread known as Vegemite to Australian audiences. A century later, the iconic Australian spread is being celebrated in Dr Callister's home town in the Pyrenees shire, western Victoria.



RecipestoTry

opening up new (and classic) culinary adventures

CWA Anzac Biscuits recipe

Soft, chewy or crunchy? With or without coconut? There are a few ways Anzac biscuits are made and sold – and some definite mistakes.

For Country Women's Association (CWA) Victorian president Pam Mawson, one of the biggest affronts is calling them cookies. "Oh! That's a no-no," she says sternly.

Anzac biscuits are linked to World War I, although their exact origins are contested. The first recipes are found as far back as the late 1910s.

Early recipes were varied and could even include things like eggs, cinnamon, rice flour, jam and mixed spices. But in the decades since, the bickies have become much more uniform. The essential ingredients are items that were readily available in Australia during the war years: butter, flour, rolled oats, sugar, golden syrup, bicarbonate soda and boiled water.

"They were made to be sent overseas to the soldiers," Ms Mawson says. "And they keep so well because of that. They can sit in a tin for months."

The CWA makes thousands of biscuits in the lead-up to every Anzac Day. Kaye Ashe is among the bakers, and her kitchen smells of warm syrup. "You can smell if an Anzac biscuit is good or not," she laughs between trays coming in and out of ovens.



Anzac biscuits

Ingredients
for 24 biscuits:

- 125gm butter, chopped
- 1 cup plain flour
- ½ tsp bicarb soda
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup caster sugar
- 2 tbs golden syrup
- 2 tbs boiling water
- ¾ cup desiccated coconut

Method:

Combine butter and golden syrup in a pan, stir over heat until butter is melted. Stir in combined soda and water, then remaining ingredients. Mix well. Drop rounded teaspoons of mixture about 4cm apart on greased oven trays and flatten slightly. Bake in a slow oven for about 20 minutes or until slightly brown. Cool on trays.



If you're looking for something to read, take a peek at these three books, listed in a recent issue of the *Winnipeg Free Press*. Two have an Aussie connection, and one has an entirely local story to tell.

Homecoming – Australian/British author Kate Morton's seventh novel is set in the Adelaide Hills. An epic story that spans continents and generations, *Homecoming* asks what we would do for those we love, how we protect the lies we tell, and what it means to come home.



The Sun Walks Down – Australian author Fiona McFarlane's sophomore novel is set in a small-town outpost in 1883 colonial Australia. The colonial Australia of *The Sun Walks Down* is unfamiliar, multicultural, and noisy with opinions, arguments, longings and terrors. It's haunted by many gods – the sun among them, rising and falling on each day that a young boy could be found, or lost forever.



Establishing Shots: An Oral History of the Winnipeg Film Group – written by local filmmaker Kevin Nikkel, *Establishing Shots* is a behind-the-scenes account of one of the most important and notorious artist-run centres in Canada. This richly illustrated collection of interviews produces a vibrant picture of the Winnipeg Film Group's origins, successes, failures, and on-going impact.



Leaf it to us

DUCW member Lynley Davidson is featured on one of the botanical displays at The Leaf, a new big attraction in Assiniboine Park. Local residents with backgrounds in other parts of the world are shown along with plants from their areas.

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 shares 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.



"No more, no more"

© J. McC. April, 2023

*...we are nothing in this many-mooded
world of weather,
but a single brush stroke down,
speaking of presence.
– poet, Rumi*

The clock ticks,
calendar turns its leaf.
Yet outside, winds howl,
blows mounds of snow maliciously.

Up in this loft,
a door creaks and whisps of
white creep under it, as
gasps of ice-cold pass by.

Just another blizzard
blasting through from Colorado.
An arctic north sends weather south
to join this mayhem.

No courage to face work.
Envisage yourself in a ditch,
with screeching wheels and little vision.
You weren't born to this place.

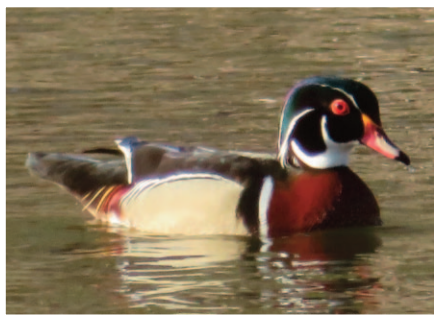
Tried hard to face this before.
Fingers grip a steering wheel.
wipers incessantly failing.
Hope and prayer, just hollow comforts.

April, where fools expect
a Spring of sun and seedling,
where seasons behave
and birds return.

Wasn't here in 1997, for
the blizzard of the century.
Elders recall ferocious squalls,
48cm of fathomless snow.

So accustomed to a cool south breeze
travelling to the tropical north, where
shoes rot on Darwin verandas, and
lizards hide under rocks for shade.

Here, I live in awe of our forest.
Deer and elk hide from nature's power,
My only company, a woodpecker.
I call out to him, no more!



Our local wood duck, photo by C. Powell

Wood ducks

Q: What do the Wood Duck and the Manitoba tartan have in common? A: Green, red and gold. In fact, this bird is one our most colorful.

Aix sponsa (a mix of Greek and Latin) translates to “small goose, grebe, duck – betrothed, bride”. Apart from its striking iridescence, the main identification give-away for the wood duck is its slick brush-back crest. The female lays up to 15 eggs in a down-lined natural tree cavity or nest-box sometimes 50 feet or more from the ground. This habit allows it to nest in areas lacking suitable ground cover. I have only witnessed what comes next on TV documentaries – the plucky little ducklings leaping to the ground just a day after hatching and following mum to the water.

Fellow DUCW member **Keith Vidal** describes the amazing feat of the adult ducks flying at top speed through the entrance to their nest-boxes on his property by the Red River. We were discussing this recently and wishing there was a camera inside to reveal what happens once through the hole. Keith also plays janitor, at great risk to life and limb up a ladder, and regularly cleans house – otherwise the build-up of nesting material can smother eggs and result in inhospitable habitation.

The **Australian wood duck** (*Chenonetta jubata*) is widespread



Australian wood duck, photo Wikipedia

in Australia, including Tasmania. The Australian wood duck is found in grasslands, open woodlands, wetlands, flooded pastures and along the coast in inlets and bays. It is also common on farmland with dams, as well as around

rice fields, sewage ponds and in urban parks. It will often be found around deeper lakes that may be unsuitable for other foraging waterbirds, as it prefers to forage on land. It has been recorded as a vagrant in New Zealand, although in 2015 and 2016 a pair successfully bred there (Wikipedia). They don't have much in common with the North American species except that they also nest in tree hollows.

The flightless New Zealand species *Chenonetta finschi* (Finsch's duck) became extinct before scientists could properly survey Aotearoa's avifauna, but possibly as late as 1870. That's too bad – I would be keen to see how they made it up to their tree hollows.

Rarely seen ...

[SOURCE: ABC South West WA, by Georgia Loney] **Willie wagtails** are well-known across Australia for their distinctive black and white markings, tail wagging and assertive behaviour. While the black and white birds are common, white ones are not.

Dunsborough man David Baker photographed what appeared to be an all-white willie wagtail in his backyard last week, to the delight of local twitchers. Wildlife ecologist Grainne Cleary said she was 99 per cent certain the bird had leucism – a rare genetic condition resulting in the partial loss of pigment – and it was a rare find.



A Dunsborough resident captured this photo of a rare white willie wagtail. (Supplied: David Baker)



Crane refuses to leave

[SOURCE: BBC News. Video in QR link by Shubham Verma and Aman Dwivedi for BBC Hindi] About one year ago Mohammad Arif found an injured Sarus crane in his field in India's Uttar Pradesh state. He took the bird home and nursed it back to health. He thought the crane would return to the wild once its injuries healed, but instead, it stayed on. The crane rarely leaves his side as this video shows. “It flies away on some days, but always returns by sunset.”



Board of Directors

President:
Peter Munn
Vice President:
Lynley Davidson
Secretary:
Margaret Munn
Newsletter Editor:
Charlie Powell
Treasurer:
Peter Debenham
Social Coordinator:
Judy Powell
Membership:
Catherine 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.