

The Southern Yarn

March-April 2024

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

MARCH

Afternoon Tea – High Tea Bakery
Saturday, March 23, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
2103 Portage Ave

Join us at one of our favourite destinations for a delicious afternoon tea. Order a beverage and a dainty, cupcake or lamington downstairs, then make your way upstairs where we will be gathering in a sunlit space for about 18 of us. Please RSVP by Wednesday March 18 to Jenny at info@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-228-9959.

APRIL

ANZAC Day Remembrance Service
Saturday, April 27 – 4:30 pm
Scandinavian Cultural Centre,
764 Erin Street

PLEASE NOTE – arrival prior to 5 pm is requested, when the formal remembrance parade will begin so we can have everyone seated for the start of official formalities.

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service in which our younger members will play a significant part. There will also be singing of our national anthems, followed by a delicious POTLUCK. This has been a particularly important event for our Club for 75 years, so come and be part of it and the social to follow. Bring a dish to share for the meal – i.e., main, salad, dessert – and, don't forget, the bar will be open.

And stay tuned for: Pool Party, Golf Tournament and our Not-so-Formal Dinner

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.



The event group, treats, and prizes. Photos: Penny Hooper and Jenny Gates.

Chili Night for our National Holidays

It was wonderful celebrating Australia Day and Waitangi Day on a relatively balmy night at the Scandinavian Club with members and friends of the DUCW.

It was also great to catch up with new members **Jada and Chris Byrne**, and to welcome back **Henry Lemanski** and **Nicole Passalis** who we hadn't seen for a while. And before dinner got underway, we all joined in a hearty rendition of our three national anthems.

There were three chilies in the bake-off, with **Leon Badali** just edging out **Margaret Munn** and **Nancy DeLong** for favourite chili of the night. Buns, bread, salad and fruit selection perfectly complemented the bake-off.

Penny Hooper (formerly Hechter) had the best – and only – pavlova. And after a successful trip back to Oz, **Emma Wakeling** generously shared some fantastic Australian treats and eats, including Snakes, Chicken

Twisties, Chicken-flavoured Shapes, and a jar of Vegemite, as well as delicious homemade ANZAC biscuits, and a yummy Australian chocolate slice (p. 5). Margaret and Peter Munn brought handmade chocolate suckers, Roo's Australian Black and Red Licorice (which you can buy at Save-On-Foods), Tim Tams, and other assorted prizes.

Judy Powell provided the most fun quiz we've had since last year. And we played several games of two-up, with the winners of each round taking home the final prizes.

Thank you, everyone, for the delicious food that ticked all the yummy boxes, excellent conversation and camaraderie, and buckets of fun.

See you at the afternoon tea on March 23.



And did you know...

When war broke out, First Australians were prevented from enlisting by the Defence Act 1903. These conditions were amended in 1917, with the 1917 Military Order 200(2). This made it easier for Indigenous people to join up. But their enlistment was still determined by individual recruitment officers. Records suggest Indigenous service men received equal treatment during the war. Many were recognised for their bravery. But despite their sacrifice and service, Indigenous soldiers returned to a country that did not recognise them as citizens. Not only were they denied war pensions or soldier settlement grants, but they were also subject to discriminatory laws and regulations that dictated all parts of their lives.



online



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

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



When we commemorate ANZAC Day this year (Saturday, April 27, at the Scandinavian Cultural Center) it will mark the start of the Down Under Club's 75 year anniversary – see Jenny's article on this milestone (p. 6). Jenny is mining the archives and will bring further installments of DUCW history in future *Yarns*.

In the hallway behind the front atrium in the St Boniface Hospital (Winnipeg), a wall of fame features photos and supporting citations of recipients of the International Award presented by the St Boniface General Hospital Research Foundation. Established in 1976, the Award honours individuals who have made, through their genius, talent and energy, an outstanding contribution to health care and the community. Among others, people such as Dr. Jonas Salk, Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, Dr. Andrei Sakharov, Sir Bob Geldof, Dr. Donall Thomas and Jose Carreras have been honoured – and also, Edmund Hillary (see p. 4).

Following the lead of my two older brothers, I participated in the Australian Army Cadets movement during my four years at high school. It was a rewarding experience, which I may relate in greater detail at another time. For any readers who shared the experience – here's a quiz question: what weapon comes to mind when I recite "piston, barrel, butt, body, bipod"? (remember those relay races?). So, I have included some history of the AAC on p.7.

Thanks to all who thought to share something of interest to others – for example, Chris, who alerted us to the Tasmania Islands; the Debenhams, for sharing their travel adventure; Lucia, who shared photos from her rendezvous with the Cobbs; Emma, who shared the Aussie Chocolate Slice recipe; Michael, for the first article in his series about the AFL; Frank, for the article on the SS *Warrimoo*; and Vilma and Jada for their feedback. Honorable mention also to Jenny, Peter and Brian and our faithful advertisers. All this and so much more!

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Warm greetings from St. Vital. Literally. This has certainly been the mildest extended stretch of winter weather that I have ever experienced in Manitoba. And I am not complaining. Unfortunately, for those who love skating outside at this time of year, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and who simply enjoy a walk on the Red River trails, it's been a bust of a winter. But there is always next year to look forward to.

Spoiler Alert! Read only the following first few lines if you intend to watch this program.

I was scanning the TV listings a month or more back, and was intrigued by a program called "The Summit Australia". Knowing nothing at all about it, we decided to watch anyway. The premise of the show is 14 non-mountaineering Australians of various ages, and physical attributes from alpha, heavily sinewed males and females with some amazing credentials, to moderately unfit bearers of dad-bodies, all attempting to reach the summit of a snow-covered peak across 200km of steadily increasing difficult terrain. They all carry

packs with their gear, and each with an equal share of the prize money – \$1,000,000 – on their back.

As Australia has only the Great Dividing Range and Mt. Kosciuszko at 7,000 feet or so, the producers wisely chose New Zealand as the locale. And the scenery is magnificent. I am not a reality show fan, maybe only ever saw half an episode of "Survivor: Saskatoon", but this show is enjoyable. People do get voted off, skullduggery gets skullduggerier every week, cash gets stolen, and a mystery helicopter drops a yellow duffle bag every so often, which contains directions for the next plot turn. As of now, five people remain, and they have lost about \$300,000 in various ways, and are at about 8,000 feet of elevation, with about 12km to go, straight up, in one day, to keep the money they have.

A new wrinkle was added last week, of which none of the remaining five are aware. The previous players voted off, who carry some big grudges, were advised that they will decide who of the five, or less (?), gets what amount of the final prize money. And the remaining climbers will not get to learn this until the prize presentations. Good entertainment on a warm winter night.

Take care all, *Peter*

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THANK YOU, DUCW!

Downunder Travel Ltd has been honoured with a long and strong relationship with the DUCW. We are celebrating 20 great years in 2024, and all of you have been a very big part of our journey. All bookings made from DUCW members in 2024 will result in a donation of \$50 to the Down Under Club of Winnipeg. Our thanks to you all for your wonderful support and friendships over the last 20 years!

— Sincerely, Jason Webb

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The Travelling Debenhams

Clockwise: Debenham family gathering, Peter and his siblings, and Peter, Joanne, Catherine and Ian.

I'm writing this having just returned from a fantastic 3-week trip to Australia with my family.

All up, there were 14 of us on the trip, 9 adults and 5 children ranging from 20 months to 11 years old. Most of us left Winnipeg January 9th and all of us returned January 30th.

My family in Australia thought I was crazy coming with so many people, but it could not have gone any better. The trip exceeded my expectations and will provide our kids and grandkids with lifetime memories of Australia. Some of the grandkids were asking their parents if they could move to Australia!

Much of the credit for the ease of transportation goes to Jason Webb of Downunder Travel. He was able to get us all on the same flights, sitting together – including domestic flights – and we had a mini-bus transport us from airport to hotels. Our first week was in Sydney where we stayed at the Quest Hotel in Manly. That was a terrific location as the kids had the beach nearby and we could easily all hop onto a ferry and go to Circular Quay, Darling Harbour and Taronga Park Zoo. The weather was hot and we all enjoyed the first leg.

We then flew to Melbourne and stayed at the Mantra Hotel near Flinders Street Station. It was unusually mild most of the time and we attended the Australian Open for 3 days running. The facilities are superb and probably the best in the world, with lots of activities for the kids to enjoy. There was also plenty of tennis to watch as we were

there on days 6, 7 and 8 of the tournament, and all over the downtown area were huge TVs screening the tennis. Then we all took a day trip on a tour of the Great Ocean Road, which was very popular. This was followed by a tram trip to St Kilda Beach, which was more like a Manitoba beach as opposed to those in Sydney. Finally, Joanne and I took a train to Lilydale where we were met by Ian and Catherine Bowering. They very nicely hosted us in their home and took us around to a couple of nearby wineries.

For the last week, we flew to Brisbane where we rented a van and drove to Twin Waters on the Sunshine Coast. Those not fitting in the van took a Conexion Bus to the resort. I can highly recommend this resort as we had a lagoon with lots of activities for the kids, a short walk to the beach, and also

tennis and golf facilities. How good is that!? The main reason for our trip was to attend a Debenham family reunion as my 5 siblings – 4 brothers and a sister – were all there with their children. So it was great for my family to meet and get to know their cousins, aunts and uncles. We also took a few trips to Maroochydore, Mooloolaba and Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo.

We had 3 distinctly different weeks of fun and a great family bonding trip. But now, since I have been going for about 30 hours, it's time to go to bed and adjust my time clock.

Peter Debenham

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'World's first' GM banana approved by regulators in Australia and New Zealand

But it's still bent

[Source: ABC News, Country Hour, Lydia Burton] A genetically-modified (GM) banana is a step closer to commercial reality as Queensland scientists gain regulatory approval to release a GM variety of Cavendish banana for human consumption.

Scientists say the QCAV-4 variety is the world's first genetically modified banana and will be the first GM fruit approved by the federal government for growing in Australia.

But it is unlikely to end up on your toast or in your smoothie any time soon.

While scientists say they will be safe to eat, the GM variety will be considered a "back-up option" in the fight against Panama Tropical Race 4 (TR4), as it is nearly immune to the disease.

Panama TR4 is a fungal disease that starves banana trees of nutrients, eventually killing the plant.

There is currently no treatment or cure and, because the disease lives in soil, infected areas can no longer grow most banana types, including the popular cavendish variety.



Thanks to Governor Franklin's widow

[Source: Wikipedia] The Tasmania Islands are a group of uninhabited islands located in the Kitikmeot Region of the Canadian territory of Nunavut. Part of the Arctic Archipelago, the island's are located in Franklin Strait, just west of Boothia Peninsula, which is part of the mainland.

The islands received their name in 1859 from arctic explorer Francis McClintock, during his expedition to find evidence of the fate of Franklin's lost expedition. He named the islands at the request of Franklin's widow*, who sponsored his expedition. Franklin had been a popular governor of Tasmania, and significant funds had been raised from there for the several searches, which Jane Franklin sponsored.

*[*Lady Jane Franklin had a remarkable personality, a large sphere of influence, and an indefatigable determination. When Sir John was sent to Tasmania as Governor in the 1830s and 40s, she travelled widely, improved the wretched conditions that female prisoners endured, encouraged the building of schools for boys and girls, commissioned a temple, and founded a museum. Rocks, bays and mountains in USA, Canada and Australia bear her name, as do a residential college and an art gallery in Tasmania, which developed from the museum she founded.]*



newszealand

various sources, see web links in online edition



When In Christchurch...

[Source: NZHerald, Shayne Currie] In a storage garage in a corner of Christchurch sits a hidden cinematic treasure – one of New Zealand's most famous and iconic cars. One of the four original yellow Minis from *Goodbye Pork Pie* – the car with the original registration number, IZ 6393, and the one that featured most prominently in the 1981 movie – has been uncovered as part of the *NZ Herald's* Great New Zealand Road Trip. And as DUCW member Lucia Barron shares, fellow member Andrew (and Laura) Cobb got to enjoy it: "Andrew, who is a car buff knew all about it and was so excited to see it ...right place at the right time sort of thing."

The Cobbs were on a cruise, but ashore for a day in Christchurch where they also explored the city's murals and had lunch with Lucia.



Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay

Everest and other achievements

St Boniface General Hospital Research Foundation's 1994 International Award citation reads, in part: "Edmund Hillary has served as New Zealand's High Commissioner to India and Bangladesh, and as Ambassador to Nepal. He has been honored by universities in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, by geographical societies and by the United Nations. The honours that have come his way have not diminished in the least his dedication to humanitarian work. While hospitals, schools, bridges and clinics may be the physical manifestation of Hillary's remarkable achievement, his legacy will find its lasting representation in the many young people who have been educated as a result of his efforts. The Nepalese teachers, nurses, craftsmen and professionals who were the beneficiaries of his work will ensure that the spirit of Edmund Hillary shall live on for generations to come. In presenting its International Award to Sir Edmund Hillary, the St Boniface General Hospital Research Foundation pays tribute to an explorer, adventurer, author and conservationist, but above all, to a humanitarian of global vision and heroic commitment. His life and work exemplify the values that can guide us to the creation and preservation of healthy societies everywhere."



Reader feedback ...

Thank you! I'm enjoying the newsletter as always, and particularly the recent one that had an article on the WWII Commonwealth soldiers. So many memories of the Down Under Club, even as a child.

Vilma Wilkie, DUCW member, California

We went to African Foodways Market on St Anne's Road and are happy to report that the Milo they sell for \$14 a can is just like the Aussie Milo. Thanks to Sam Dawson for the tip.

Jada Byrne, new DUCW member

Australian Film at Freeze Frame

This year's Freeze Frame International Film Festival for Kids of All Ages runs from March 10 - 16. And the program features "Sweet As", a film from Australia. Single tickets are only \$6. Watch the trailer here.



SWEETAS

Australia, 2022 - 87 min.

Director: Jub Clerc

Classification: M - age 15+

With problems on the home front, 16-year-old Murra's uncle Ian, the local cop, throws her a lifeline in the form of a "photo-safari for at-risk kids". An uplifting coming-of-age road movie about unconventional friendships, first crushes, and finding who you are on the road less travelled. (Content warning: language, drug and alcohol use.)

Two screenings - **March 12** at 1:00 pm and **March 16** at 11:00 am at CCFM, 340 Provencher.



A 1899 stern but a 1900 bow?

The passenger steamer SS *Warrimoo* was quietly knitting its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought Captain John D. S. Phillips the result. The *Warrimoo's* position was latitude 0° 31' N and longitude 179° 30' W. The date was December 31, 1899.

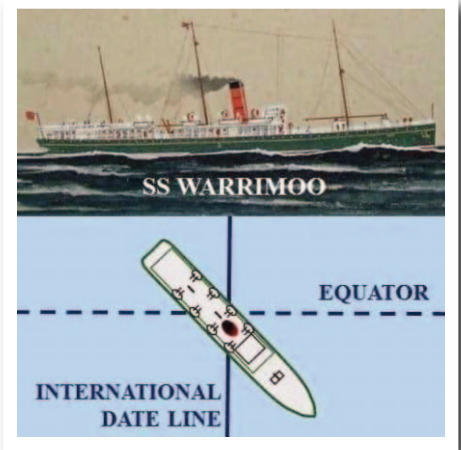
"Know what this means?"

First Mate Payton broke in. "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line."

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime.

He called his navigators to the bridge to check and double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather and clear night worked in his favour, and at midnight, the SS *Warrimoo* lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line.

The consequences of this bizarre position were many. The forward part (bow) of the



ship was in the Southern Hemisphere and in the middle of summer. The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere and in the middle of winter. The date in the aft part of the ship was December 31, 1899. In the bow (forward) part it was January 1, 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different years, and two different seasons, but also in two different centuries - all at the same time! [article and photo submitted by Frank Unger]

Australian Chocolate Slice

Emma Wakeling brought this very yummy stacked chocolate slice topped with flaked coconut to our Australia Day and Waitangi Day gathering, and has shared it with us. Original recipe from Curious Cuisinière. Prep time - 10 mins, cook time - 20 mins



Base

- 1 cup all purpose flour (240g)
- 2/3 cup desiccated coconut (44g)
- 1/2 cup brown sugar (80g) - or regular sugar
- 2 Tbsp cocoa powder
- 1 egg
- 10 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted (140g, 1 stick plus 2 tbsp)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Frosting

- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 2 Tbsp cocoa powder
- 1 Tbsp butter, softened
- 1 Tbsp boiling hot water



Instructions

Preheat oven to 320°F/160°C.

Butter a dish or deep baking sheet/tin approx 11 or 12 in by 7 or 8 in and at least 1 in deep. Line it with parchment paper on the bottom and two longer sides, overhanging the sides, pressing gently into the butter to help it stick. Mix flour, coconut, sugar and cocoa powder in a bowl. Lightly beat the egg and melt the butter. Add these and vanilla to dry ingredients, mix well. Put mixture into prepared dish, press down evenly, flattening top to smooth.

Bake for approx 20-25 minutes until the top looks firm and dry. Prepare the frosting/icing. Sift confectioner's sugar and cocoa powder together in a bowl. Add melted butter and hot water and mix well. Add a little extra sugar/water if needed to make a semi-thick but workable mixture. Once base is ready, top with frosting while it is still hot. Try to spread evenly, right to the corners, but be aware if you try to work it too much the top will become less even. Once done, sprinkle with a little coconut while the frosting is still wet. Leave to cool/firm up before cutting into pieces. To cut into pieces: it's easier to loosen the short edges of the slice and lift it out of the dish in one piece. Then, cut into whatever size pieces suits (for this size, I suggest 16 pieces).

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75years&counting

Happy anniversary, everyone!

The Down Under Club of Winnipeg (DUCW) is about to enter its 75th year of existence.

The genesis of the DUCW goes back to World War II, and in particular, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP). In all, more than 131,000 air crewmen graduated from the BCATP by the end of the war, including 9,600 Australians and 7,000 New Zealanders. After the war, many who had married Canadian girls emigrated to Manitoba, ultimately leading to the formation of the Club.

More of our story will unfold over the next 6 issues in this new column

"Our first significant function was the ANZAC Day Parade in April 1949. We borrowed a huge Australian flag from the *Winnipeg Free Press* and draped it around the Cenotaph. The then Mayor of Winnipeg, Garnet Coulter, placed a wreath on behalf of the city. In response to the media coverage the service received, members of the General Monash Branch, Royal Canadian Legion asked if they could join us at future services, and have done so since 1950." (Gordon Keatch)

More of our story will unfold over the next 6 issues in this new column as we look back through our journey so far and look forward to whatever lies ahead in hopefully the next 75 years.

In the meantime, we have a few ideas to celebrate where we are today, but we are always looking for more. So, if you have any other ideas, just let us know.

Our three main goals will be to promote the Club far and wide, enhance our connections in the community, and create more opportunities for you, our members. A few ideas are:



Top: Gord Keatch (l) and Al Hansen (r), with members of the General Monash Branch, RCL.

Above: Legion members at the Garden of Memories dedication, 1999.

- to create a Wikipedia page,
- to reach out to and reconnect with past members,
- to organise a T10 friendly with the Taverners Cricket Club and the Manitoba Cricket Association,
- to upload photos and videos from Club events and Folklorama pavilions to our website and/or YouTube channel,
- to connect with local organisations that have occasional Australian and New Zealand events – i.e., Winnipeg Wine Festival, Freeze Frame (see p. 5), Cinematheque, Fringe Festival, Haka Rugby, and others,
- to share our story through the media, and

- invite dignitaries from our High Commissions and home governments, because why not, eh!?

We will also organise other social events like the upcoming afternoon tea at the High Tea Bakery (see p. 1), including another breakfast, maybe a casual dinner, a movie night at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre, and other ideas on the drawing board.

If you have any ideas or would like to help out with one thing or the other, please let us know at info@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-228-9959 (Jenny) or 204-237-1805 (Peter).

There's lots of celebrate about our Club, and we look forward to sharing it all with you over the next year and beyond.

– Jenny Gates



ANZACs: A stereotypical image of the Anzac soldier emerged from the Gallipoli Campaign. He was tough, inventive and loyal to his mates and to officers who had proven themselves, but sometimes undisciplined when not fighting. He was chivalrous, gallant, a good fighter, but not a good parade-ground soldier. He was brave, able to endure discomfort with a grin, casual about dangers, accepting of the possible consequences of combat, good-natured, humorous, and irreverent towards officers who insisted on military discipline. He thought himself better than the soldiers of most other nations and considered himself to be democratic and egalitarian.

Art in Bloom at the WAG

DUCW member Penny Hooper will once again participate in the WAG's Art in Bloom from April 19 to 21 this year. Penny's created floral display will partner with an assigned painting. She was first featured in 2022, when her interpretation perfectly complemented the painting "In the Orchard". Be sure to check it out!

Photo provided by Penny Hooper



HistoricalNotes

Australian Army Cadets

[Source: Wikipedia - Australian Army Cadets (AAC)] The King's School and Newington College vie for the honour of having the oldest Cadet Corps in Australia. An embryonic corps was founded by Newington College when a drill master was appointed to staff in 1865. Two years later, a sergeant-major was appointed and muskets and carbines were purchased and an armoury and gunpowder store were opened at Newington College. The first official unit in Australia was established on 29 March 1866 at St Mark's Collegiate School by Reverend Macarthur. In June 1868, The King's School had closed and did not reopen until January 1869, when it was amalgamated with the St Mark's unit, the unit was renamed The King's School Cadets Corps. In 1869, the Newington College Cadet Corps was formally incorporated by the Governor of New South Wales (Somerset Lowry-Corry, 4th Earl Belmore) and that unit is now believed to be the second oldest continually running corps in Australia, after The King's School Cadet Corps. The first regional unit, and third oldest continually running corps in the country, was established in September 1898 by The Armidale School. With the establishment of many cadet units and corps at



Cadets of 306ACU Monash and Australian veterans parading in Melbourne on ANZAC Day.

numerous boys schools throughout the Commonwealth, His Majesty King Edward VII established the Commonwealth Cadet Corps in Australia on 16 July 1906.

[Source: The Torch and the Sword by Craig AJ Stockings] From 1 January 1901 the defence of Australia became a Commonwealth responsibility and the various colonial cadet forces fell under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Military Forces. Cadets were included in the Commonwealth Defence Act (1903-04). However, in practical terms cadets remained under the auspices of the states until 1906, when the Commonwealth Military Cadet Corps (CMCC) was established.

The passing of a new Defence Act (1909), contained provision for universal military training and by 1911 compulsory cadet training was introduced. In 1929 the mandatory provision of the Defence Act was sus-

pending and as a result compulsory cadets ended. Mandatory cadets was quickly replaced with a voluntary cadet system, with community and school based units.

From 1939-45 Australia was at war and as a result there was increased military focus within the cadet movement. This was in alignment with general societal sentiment and the cadet movement grew by 57% during this period.

The title of 'Australian Cadet Corps' (ACC) was officially adopted in 1950 and the period from 1946-57 saw the continued growth and development of cadets in Australia.

The period 1958-74 saw a rise and fall in cadet numbers. This period also saw a shift in training to adventure type, field - based training. The government of the day's decision to disband the cadets as at January 1st 1976, did not see the end of the cadet movement. In January 1976, under a new government, a new system of Defence Force Cadets - providing for Army, Navy and Air Force components was announced.

In the early 2000s the title of Australian Army Cadets was approved with the short title of AAC. Since 2014, Army has invested heavily within the AAC and since 2017 the AAC has grown 44 new units and now totals over 250 units in communities and schools across Australia with over 18,000 cadets supported by over 1,300 dedicated volunteer staff.



AFLseason

Magpies Make it the Sweetest of 16s

September 30, 2023. After 215½ games, the 2023 AFL season came down to 30 minutes of scintillating football between the Collingwood Magpies and the Brisbane Lions. In 30°C heat at the MCG, the Pies claimed their record-equalling 16th premiership with a hard fought 12.18 (90) to 13.8 (86). Collingwood joined the Carlton Blues and Essendon Bombers to share in the record for most flags won in the AFL.

The Magpies led at every break, but kept their supporters on edge for the entire afternoon, something the Magpie army has gotten used to over the past 2 years under sophomore senior coach Craig McRae.

With less than 6 minutes remaining, Brisbane star Charlie Cameron kicked his 3rd goal of the match to put the Lions up by 2 points.



The centre bounce that followed was controlled by Nick Daicos, who fired a handball to Magpie legend Scott Pendlebury. Playing in his 383rd game, Pendles smashed the ball onto his left boot to the tip of the 50m arc where it was knocked to Daicos, who had run forward after his initial handball started the passage play.

Another lightning handball to Jordan De Goey saw him swing around on his right to kick truly from 50, putting the Pies back in front by 4 points.

Less than a minute later, it was up to Steele Sidebottom to kick an age defying goal from outside 50 that proved to be the sealer. Brisbane's Joe Daniher kicked truly with less than 90 seconds remaining in the game to add just a bit more drama to the story. However, Collingwood blocked all Brisbane's efforts, sending the Lions back to Queensland the second-best team on the day.

The final siren was the end of an epic grand final and the beginning of a celebration for the Magpies and their supporters. Combine the victory with McRae's daughter Maggie being born 6 hours before the first bounce, and it's hard to imagine a movie script written by any shouting barracker that could rival what took place in 2023.

Unless, of course, you add that the writer of this yarn travelled 30,000+ kms that week to be at the MCG that day to witness in person the magical Magpie mania that swept across Melbourne that last day in September!

- Michael Workman, DUCW member
and Collingwood tragic since Dec 19

Native birds of Aotearoa New Zealand

[Source: *NZ Herald*] New Zealand currently has 23 bird species at risk of immediate extinction, including the orange-fronted parakeet (Kākāriki), Chatham Island black robin, New Zealand fairy tern and the white heron. It's been calculated that rats, stoats and possums alone kill some 25 million native birds each year. And since the arrival of humans 700 years ago, a further 40 endemic bird species – among them, the huia, the South Island kōkako, and the enormous Haast's eagle – have already been lost.

The **KEA** is capable of turning on water taps, locking people inside toilets, using tools to set off stoat traps to get the eggs, and having a tug-of-war with a cat over a rabbit carcass.

KĀKĀ are medium-sized parrots that live in forests of all three main islands, and on many nearshore islands. The North Island subspecies (left) is olive brown, and its feathers have darker edges than those of the green South Island birds (right).

The **KĀKĀPŌ** is the heaviest parrot species in the world. The smaller females weigh 1.4 kg, and males 2.2 kg. And they can pile on 1 kg of fat prior to a breeding season. With a potential lifespan of 90 years, the kākāpō is possibly the longest-lived bird species in the world.

KĀKĀRIKI, meaning 'small green parrot' in Māori, are beautiful forest birds. They feed on berries, seeds, fruit and insects, and generally nest in holes in trees.

PŪKEKO A good wader, swimmer and runner, the pūkeko, or purple swamphen, is probably one of the most recognized native birds in Aotearoa New Zealand with its distinctive colourings and habit of feeding on the ground.



MOREPORK Its European name (morepork), Māori name (ruru) and Australian name (boobook) all echo its two-part cry. The morepork is New Zealand's only surviving native owl. They are found in mainland New Zealand's forests and on many offshore islands. They are less common in the drier, more open regions of Canterbury and Otago. Another morepork subspecies lives on Norfolk Island. It was reduced in numbers to a single female, but after two males were introduced from New Zealand in 1987, a hybrid population was re-established. The larger laughing owl became extinct in the 20th century. The German or little owl is a smaller introduced species.

K I W I

There are five species of kiwi, the NZ national icon and unofficial emblem including the brown kiwi, the great spotted kiwi/rorua, the little spotted kiwi, the rowi, and the tokoeka.



TŪI This clever bird can mimic the sound of bellbirds. Tūi are unique to New Zealand and belong to the honeyeater family, which means they feed mainly on nectar from flowers of native plants.



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