

The Southern Yarn

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

May-June 2024

downundercalendar

JULY

Pool Party

Sunday 21st July 2024 at 3:30 pm
57 D'Arcy Drive, south Winnipeg.

Lynley and family have offered their pool and backyard again 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 (see below) 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

And stay tuned for: 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.



ANZAC 2024 commemorative event photos by Jenny Gates

ANZAC Day Remembrance

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

On Saturday April 27, Club president Peter Munn welcomed everyone in attendance at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre and then called for the marching on of the colours. This was once again performed by two of our younger members, **Kalvin Keating** and **Owen Davidson**, and directed by Charlie. Reverend **Teresa Moysey** delivered opening remarks. "The Requiem" was read by **Ryan**

Davidson and "In Flanders Fields" was read by **Clair Somers**. Trumpeter **Rick Selwood** played the "Last Post" and "Reveille", clear and true, and wreaths were laid in memory of Fallen Comrades and Founding Members by **Claire Somers** and **Erin Keating**. All joined in the singing of our three National Anthems, followed by the closing prayer by Rev. Moysey. Finally, the colours were marched off to end the formal ceremony.

The social time and delicious potluck meal followed. Our thanks especially to our younger members 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 winners! – *Charlie Powell*



Tim Gardner
Mom Making Wish
Penny Hooper

My intention was to create a fun, celebratory arrangement using bright colours associated with spring. I added the candles as a touch of whimsy and a nod to honour the happy occasion portrayed in this painting.

Just as we make wishes on shooting stars or when blowing on dandelions, the act of blowing out candles is believed to make our desires more likely to come true. What do you wish for?

Penny Hooper's Art Blooms

Congratulations to DUCW member **Penny Hooper** on her beautiful flower art display during the recent Winnipeg Art Gallery's Art in Bloom exhibition. Not only did her arrangement make a special appearance on WAG-Qaumajuq's page, but according to local flower and art enthusiast Sue Ekdahl,

"The talented Penny Hooper. I love all her interpretations. Tied for my #1 favourite."
– *Jenny Gates*

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



Following on from last issue's reminisces of school army cadet days: the quiz answer is the Bren gun.

When we went bush on weekend bivouacs we had to take army-issue rations with us – canned stew, condensed milk, “dog” biscuits, tubes of Vegemite, etc. At the annual two-week camp, regular army cooks served up the meals in mess tents. The fun times thankfully balanced the more serious implications of what the cadet movement was all about.

In addition to rifle practice and learning maneuver strategies, our participation in the annual ANZAC Day parades and ceremonies kept the more sober realities front of mind. For 75 years our DUCW has maintained the serious remembrance of the ANZACs and their sacrifices and achievements, especially for each next generation.

We also maintain the balance with the many lighter activities. And there is more humour in uniform in this edition. You can also learn more of what “the little club that could” has gotten up to in part 2 of **Jenny Gates’** Club history piece on p. 7 – pretty amazing!

All this and so much more – thanks to all who have contributed and our advertisers.

Charlie Powell



Ha, ha, very punny

Sittin’ at home last Sunday mornin’, me mate Boomerang said he was havin’ a few people around for a barbie. Said he might Kookaburra or two. I said, “Sounds great, will Wallaby there?” He said, “Yeah, and Vegemite come too.” So I said to the wife, “Do you wanna Goanna?” She said, “I’ll go if Dingos.” So I said, “Wattle we do about Nulla?” She said, “Nullabors me to tears, leave him at home.”



president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Hello again. Margaret and I spent 5 days last month with the Toronto branch of our Munn family. Our newest granddaughter is already growing up fast, and she has my tastes for a big hearty meal. Our son had gone bush for a weekend of backcountry portaging and canoeing, and we had offered to help Mom with the baby and Klondike the greyhound for the weekend that he was away. I often think that Winnipeg is having a growth spurt with all the housing construction going on here, but in Toronto with a larger population, it seems many city blocks have 20 storey apartment blocks being built underneath massive cranes.

Elsewhere in the *Yarn*, you will see the upcoming events we have planned, and for those who haven't been able to make it to

an event for a while, we would love to see you again. There is the pool party in the summer, very casual, and swimming is not compulsory (ha, ha!). Just sit under the Pergola and enjoy the company. The barbeque is always good, compliments of Charlie's culinary skills.

For the sporting and also non-sporting types, we have our annual golf tournament in August (details to come). Very casual, and this year the main prize is a new car. It is a team event, and best ball, so if you don't hit a good shot, don't worry. Pick up your ball, and walk to the best shot struck by your team, and then hit from there. No pressure, lots of fun. And did I mention we are giving away a new car!?

So hopefully we will see you all again soon,

Kind regards,
Peter



The Hydsmiths' recent road trip along the Great Lakes included a stop at Lake Superior's Pukaskwa National Park.

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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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Photo by Jenny Gates

Get Your Haka Rugby On!

Haka Rugby's transformative rugby camp is back coming to Winnipeg from July 22 to 24 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Experience the thrill and spirit of authentic New Zealand rugby, along with an enriching journey through Maori culture. This is a great summer camp for boys and girls aged 8 to 16.

Winnipeg's Haka Rugby will be held at the Assassins Rugby Football Club at Maple Grove Rugby Park, 190 Frobisher Rd. Cost for the 3-day event is \$240, and includes training T-shirt and shorts.

Get more info and register through the QR code.



They breed 'em tough in the bush ...

Dear Mum & Dad,

I am well. Hope youse are too. Tell me big brothers Doug and Phil that the Army is better than workin' on the station - tell them to get in bloody quick smart before the jobs are all gone! I wuz a bit slow in settling down at first, because ya don't hafta get outta bed until 6am. But I like sleeping in now, cuz all ya gotta do before brekky is make ya bed and shine ya boots and clean ya uniform. No bloody horses to get in, no calves to feed, no troughs to clean - nothin'!! Ya haz gotta shower though, but it's not so bad, coz there's lotsa hot water and even a light to see what ya doing!

At brekky ya get cereal, fruit and eggs, but there's no kangaroo steaks or goanna stew like wot Mum makes.

You don't get fed again until noon and by that time all the city boys are buggered because we've been on a 'route march' - geez it's only just like walking to the windmill in the bullock paddock!!

This one will kill me brothers Doug and Phil with laughter. I keep getting medals for shootin' - dunno why. The bullseye is as big as a bloody dingo's arse and it don't move and it's not firing back at ya like the Johnsons did when our big scrubber bull got into their prize cows before the Ekka last year! All ya gotta do is make yourself comfortable and hit

the target - it's a piece of cake!! You don't even load your own cartridges, they comes in little boxes, and ya don't have to steady yourself against the rollbar of the roo shooting truck when you reload!

Sometimes ya gotta wrestle with the city boys and I gotta be real careful coz they break easy - it's not like fighting with Doug and Phil and Jack and Boori and Steve and Muzza all at once like we do at home after the muster.

Turns out I'm not a bad boxer either and it looks like I'm the best the platoon's got, and

I've only been beaten by this one bloke from the Engineers. He's 6 foot 5 and 15 stone and three pick handles across the shoulders, and as ya know I'm only 5 foot 7 and eight stone wringin' wet, but I fought him till the other blokes carried me off to the boozier.

I can't complain about the Army - tell the boys to get in quick before word gets around how bloody good it is.

Your loving daughter,
Susan

[Contributed by Rob W.]

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Whiplash

[SOURCE: ABC South East SA, by Liz Rymill and Eugene Boisvert, 13Apr2024] It's around four hours' drive to Adelaide from the south-east rural township of Penola.

One hundred years ago it was a journey that took five days by horse-drawn carriage.

Mail travels today by air and truck, but in the 19th century the post came by stagecoach with a five-horse team, prevailing over rough country, beaten tracks, and bushrangers.

It's been a century since the last Cobb & Co mail coaches ran in Australia, but this week a commemorative stagecoach journey marked the milestone by recreating one of the company's famed journeys. Rob Fairchild and his team of five heavy horses along with his family, volunteers, and fellow carriage drivers journeyed from Mount Gambier's Mil-Lel to Penola, home of an historic Cobb & Co Booking Office, notching up 100 km and sharing the adventure with locals and hundreds of delighted school children. Mr Fairchild chose five horses – "the traditional Cobb & Co hitch" – to pull his replica stagecoach, which was built in the 1980s and is an all-steel model compared to the wooden coaches of Cobb & Co. He said the company – "which was a bit like a franchise in a lot of ways" – spread into New Zealand, South Africa, and Japan, where the name Cobb & Co was used in a number of different businesses.

"In Western Australia, Cobb & Co was owned by Sir Sidney Kidman and his brother. Sidney supplied the horses and his brother ran the operation," Mr Fairchild said.



Waking with the birds

[Source: RNZ, Katie Fitzgerald, 5Feb2024]

For 50 years Radio New Zealand's "Morning Report" has begun with a bird call. It was just before 11pm at night, in early 1973 NZBC all night programme presenter Robert Taylor wanted a sound to herald the start of the show and decided on the call of the Ruru/Morepork.

Ruru call recordings were somewhat difficult to come by in Wellington late at night, so Taylor went for the next best thing: he recorded colleague John Winchcombe doing a mostly accurate impression of the bird in the hallway.

It was all going swimmingly until he heard from NZ Wildlife Service staff member John Kendrick, who had a question about the very unique Ruru call playing each night.

"He said to me, 'What's that strange Morepork call you're broadcasting?'" Taylor says.

"I said, 'Well, what do you mean strange?' He said, 'Well, it's a dialect I've never heard before', and I had to fess up and tell him that it was a fake that we had done because we couldn't get hold of the real thing.

"He said, 'I'm in the Wildlife Service in Bowen State building. Come up and see me, I'll sort you out.' I went over and I formed a lifelong friendship with John Kendrick, who was the sound recordist for all of our bird calls."

Kendrick, who died in 2013 at the age of 91, provided birdcalls to be played on air. He also gave Taylor the occasional opportunity to get his hands dirty.

"I went out with John several times on his recording trips to some pretty remote places, and you have to be pretty fit, very, very patient and very obsessed with what you're doing. John was totally that way."



John Kendrick in the field in the 1970s. Image courtesy of White Cloud Books / Upstart Press



Say it fast, three times

[Source: Readers Digest, Claire Nowak, 22 Jun 2021] There is a 1,000-foot hill near the township Porangahau, in New Zealand's North Island, that holds the Guinness World Record for longest place name with 85 characters. Locals call it Taumata or Taumata Hill.

The hill got its lengthy name from a native warrior named Tamatea. Legend has it that after his brother was killed in a fight with another tribe, Tamatea spent the following days grieving his loss by playing his flute on the hill. The Māori (the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand) wanted to name the location in his honour and chose what is now the hill's official name. It roughly translates to "the summit where Tamatea, the man with the big knees, the slider, climber of mountains, the land-swallower who travelled about, played his nose flute to his loved one."



Māori publisher scoops big prize

[Source: RNZ, Pokere Paewai, 10Apr2024] Huia Publishers have won the Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publishers of the Year, Oceania, at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in Italy.

Huia director Pania Tahau-Hodges said the team was ecstatic when they heard the news.

"For us to be recognised on such an international stage is a big deal, it's thrown a spotlight on Huia, on our authors, on our books but also on te ao Māori and it's thrown a spotlight on the importance of indigenous storytelling so we're absolutely wrapped," she said.

In this year's shortlist for the Oceania area, Huia were up against three Australian publishers as well as Scholastic New Zealand.

With a history of more than 60 years, the Bologna Book Fair was the biggest children's book fair in the world, Tahau-Hodges said, with thousands of publishers, literary agents and other practitioners attending.





Lamingtons and Friends at the High Tea Bakery

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in March, 17 members and friends enjoyed coffees and teas, and all manner of treats and eats at one of our favourite destinations.

The High Tea Bakery reserved the upstairs for our group, and we had the opportunity to catch up with two of our newer members – **Elaine Lovatt** and **Michael Workman** – and meet an exchange student from Oz – **Michael Williams** – and his friends **John** and **Niklas**, and John's mum.

The staff at the Bakery put aside three dozen lamingtons for us, and looked after us during the afternoon. And after the success of their latest passionfruit lamingtons just in time for Mother's Day, we are now looking ahead to a lamington taste test on our next visit there.



Photos by Brian Hydesmith

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Volunteering and fundraising

During our early years, Laurie Myers ran a trailer manufacturing business that produced a lot of scrap lumber. Some members got together after hours to make wooden toys for Christmas that were donated to the Salvation Army.

We were also active in fundraising for local charities through participation in the Dragon Boat Race (2000) and the 24-Hour Relays (2001, 2002). And we also contributed to the Easter Seals Relay and Tsunami Disaster Fund.

With respect to disaster relief, in 2009, more than \$3,000 was donated for bushfire relief in Victoria, Australia, and two years later, floods in Queensland saw us donate more than \$5,500.

More of our story will unfold over the next 5 issues in this new column

Also in 2011, Christchurch, New Zealand, was hit by devastating earthquakes, and we raised \$13,300 that was donated to the New Zealand Red Cross.

More recently, on February 22, 2020, our Winnipeg Fundraiser for the Australian Bushfires raised \$19,169, with monies donated to the Australian Red Cross and the families of three firefighters who lost their lives while volunteering.

A bonus on the night was Charlie Powell's tribute to the bushfire fighters – sung to the tune of “Lili Marlene” – that raised our spirits and acknowledged the men and women who battled the fires on the frontlines.

The videos of members singing “The Aussie Firefighters”, a short documentary about our Bushfire fundraiser, and the PowerPoint presentation that ran throughout the Bushfire event, are available for viewing on our Facebook page and at this QR code:



The Down Under Club of Winnipeg put together a dragon boat team that participated in the local event back in 2000. We've also organized various local events to raise and donate money to natural disaster relief efforts in New Zealand and Australia.

Associations

For many years, it was a long-standing tradition for Australian and New Zealand service personnel assigned to the CFB Winnipeg Air Navigation School to join us at our events. This included our ANZAC Day services, which were also attended by Australian and New Zealand Air Force trainees at the Air Navigation School in Winnipeg, and members of the Wartime Pilots' and Observers' Association (WPOA).

That ceased following the disbandment of the WPOA (2008) and the end of trainees coming to the Navigation School.

Similarly, members of the General Monash Branch 115 have been attending our

ANZAC Day services every April since 1949. Unfortunately, that changed when Covid arrived, but the Branch has also been navigating a dwindling membership, the relocation of that branch and the advanced age of members, another important tradition for our club has come to an end.

– Jenny Gates

Next issue – Our Social Events



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.



AFLseasonUpdate

For those of us who treat the home and away season like a religion, March 2024 could not have come fast enough. With a third of the footy year done and dusted, new and old contenders have staked their claim for premier-ship glory come September.

Over the past two decades, it hasn't been an unusual sight to see the Cats on top of the ladder, at 7-0 and undefeated. They saw off this year's flag fancy Carlton in Round 7 and look poised to take on all challengers.

Greater Western Sydney scored some retri-bution in "opening round" – where the first four games are played outside Melbourne in an effort to grow the game – and smashed Collingwood by 33 points after falling to the Pies in last year's prelim by one point. The Giants look focused and sit on one loss after seven rounds.

Sydney is also proving serious contenders as the Swans enter the post-Buddy Franklin era equal 2nd with their fellow Sydneysiders. After playing off in the most epic of grand finals of the modern era, Brisbane and Collingwood started their campaigns with three losses on the trot. The Pies have pushed through their early season lethargy, and levelled their ledger at three wins, three losses and one draw v Essendon on ANZAC Day.



Collingwood's J. Elliot taking a specky over Essendon's Ben Mackay in the 29th annual ANZAC Day match between the Magpies and the Bombers. Picture: Michael Klein. Source: News Corp Australia

Brisbane has not fared as well – two wins, five losses – and with the raft of ACL injuries to key players, an off-season debacle in Vegas post grand final, and Senior Coach Chris Fagan having to front the powers that be re his involvement in racism issues while at Hawthorn, it's difficult to imagine the Lions contending for a top 8 finish, never

mind a repeat appearance in this year's decider.

The Melbourne Demons have experienced a return to form and sit comfortably in the top 8 after underachieving the past two years post-2021 flag glory. Of the three at the bottom of the ladder, North Melbourne is yet to eke out a win, and Hawthorn Hawks and North Melbourne Eagles are on two wins a piece.

Good news for the West Coast's is their number one selection in last year's draft, Harley Reid, is delivering in spades after being the most hyped first round pick since N. Daicos. Reid is a ready built footballer and has shown glimpses of brilliance in his short seven game career.

With the rest of the clubs middling and finding their way, the next third of the season will see the emergence of contenders and the steady decline of the also rans.

One milestone that deserves mention is Collingwood's Scott Pendlebury's chase to achieve what only four other V/AFL players have accomplished – playing 400 games. Arguably the greatest Magpie bar none, the champion of numerous B&Fs, a Norm Smith, two premiership medals, a coaches MVP award, and the only player to amass 10,000+ disposals, Pendles is truly worthy of the title 'Living Legend'.

– Michael J. Workman

Camouflage Training

The Sergeant Major growled at the young soldier: "Why weren't you at camouflage training this morning?"

"I was there, sir," answered the soldier.

"I didn't see you," returned the Sergeant Major.

"Thank you very much, sir," replied the soldier.

Who's the Idiot?

As a group of soldiers stood in formation at an Army Base, the Drill Sergeant said, "All right! All you idiots fall out."

As the rest of the squad wandered away, one soldier remained at attention.

The Drill Instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him, and then raised a single eyebrow. The soldier smiled and said, "Sure was a lot of 'em, huh, sir?"

Humour in uniform

Source: Korea Veterans Association of Australia



What Time Is It?

During the planning stages of a very large military operation, Operations HQ received a radio request for a "Time Check."

The Operations HQ lackey asks, "Who's calling?"

"What difference does that make?"

"It makes a lot of difference," says the lackey. "If you're a Reservist Unit, it's 3 o'clock. If you're an Infantry Unit, it's 1500 hrs. If you're the Navy, it's six bells. If you're the Armoured Corps, the big hand is on the 12 and the small hand is on the 3. If you're the Artillery Corps, it's Thursday afternoon."





birds*i*view

by Charlie Powell

Cooper's Hawk

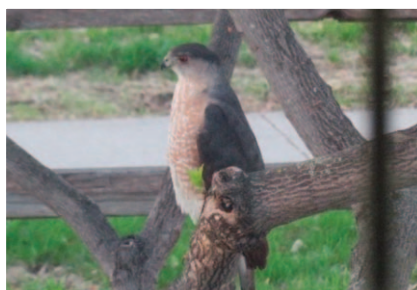
I took the photos on this page several years apart – one in our yard and the other in King's Park, just a short walk away. I believe that I have correctly identified them as Cooper's hawks.

At first, I thought they were merlins, but have since learned that the latter have a shorter tail. The thing is, even if I am correct, I won't be for much longer!

On 1st November last year, the American Ornithological Society announced scientists intend to change the English names of bird species named after people. They will establish a new multidisciplinary naming entity and seek public input, beginning with 70–80 bird species in the U.S. and Canada. The aim of this is to “address past wrongs and engage far more people in the enjoyment, protection and study of birds.”

The AOS announcement comes on the heels of Chicago Audubon Society changing its name to Chicago Bird Alliance, removing the association with John James Audubon, whose towering reputation as a naturalist has been tainted by a fuller picture of his legacy, which also includes buying and selling slaves, plagiarism and the exploitation of natural resources.

Wikipedia tells me that the species was originally named in 1828 by Charles Lucien



Bonaparte in honour of his friend and fellow ornithologist, William Cooper. Other common names for Cooper's hawk include: big blue darter, chicken hawk, flying cross, hen hawk, quail hawk, striker, and swift hawk. At least here in Winnipeg, it's one of the few raptors that you have a chance of viewing relatively close – others are the merlin, kestrel and bald eagle. We'll see how knowledgeable the name changers are when it comes to the merlin. Do they know that it was not named after the Arthurian legendary wizard? His name comes from the Welsh Myrddin, whereas the bird's is derived from Old French esmerillon. Coopers and merlins are swift hunters and go for insects and smaller birds up to pigeons and quail.

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