

The Southern Yarn

July–August 2024

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

JULY

Pool Party

Sunday 21st July 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

AUGUST

Annual DUCW Golf Tournament

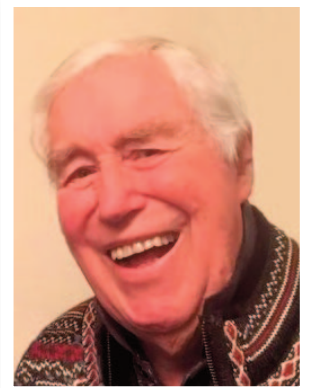
Wednesday, August 28, at 2 pm

at The Players, 2695 Inkster Blvd.

The game will again be "Best Ball", where you are part of a team of four, and you all hit your next shots from the best positioned ball in your group. It is a great format for social golf, and for those who just play occasionally, because if you don't hit a great shot yourself, you simply pick up your ball and play from your team's best position. We will be playing 9 holes. The course has a nice open-air area attached to the restaurant, overlooking their man-made lake, and we gather after the game for results, a beverage, and perhaps a burger. It is a casual event and a guaranteed good time. Call **Peter Munn at 204 237-1805** to let him know you'll be attending, and we look forward to seeing the regulars and many others. **INVITE A FRIEND!**



Several members of the Down Under Club attended the memorial service for Murray Burt.



Farewell, friend

On Saturday May 11, several of us from the DUCW farewelled our dear friend and long-time member Murray Burt when we joined Betsy at a memorial service with his family and friends.

Born in 1933 in Dunedin, New Zealand, Christopher Murray Burt pursued his dream of becoming a journalist in the UK, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and finally Manitoba as Managing Editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*. He retired to Kenora where he devoted much time to another passion, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, for whom he wrote the book *The Ladies From Hell*.

In his 90 years, Murray was a prolific writer, an old-school journalist, and active with the Commonwealth Journalists' Association, advocating for the rights of journalists around the world to objectively report news.

To his family, he was a beloved husband, father and grandfather who enjoyed inciting discussion on any topic, from comparative governments to ethics in journalism. To many, he was a role model, a loyal friend and an affable advisor.

Most of us in the DUCW will remember Murray for his association with the Royal Commonwealth Society, which led to many invites for the Club to attend Commonwealth

Day gatherings at the Lieutenant Governor's House, prayer services, and most recently an event for King Charles' coronation.

And we are forever grateful to him for drawing our attention to the goings on in the Commonwealth through Commonwealth Corner, a full-page column that ran in *The Southern Yarn* for more than a decade.

Rest easy, Murray. We will miss you.



Paddling Paradise film

Our good friend DUCW member Brian Hydesmith and two of his friends feature in a short documentary series by Kicker Films that will screen on **Monday August 12 at Cinematheque** (100 Arthur St).

Paddling Paradise is a four-part series that profiles three paddling friends and Manitoba's Mantario canoe route and wilderness cabin. Details at patrykszmids.com. If you can't make it to the free screening, watch out for it on Bell TV soon.

Land Acknowledgement

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

online



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www.downunderclub.mb.ca

email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



I'm a bit too old and unfit for cricket these days, but there was a time when I, along with other younger and fitter fellow DUCW members, played and enjoyed the game at a competitive level. In the winter we played (and won the championship) indoors (with a tennis ball) and in the summer we played at Assiniboine Park.

We had to stake out the boundary and peg a large mat down for the pitch. So, it is good to learn that an upgrade is in the works (see p.5) since there are now so many new Canadians, particularly from South Asia, who also want to continue enjoying their traditional sport.

With the Paris Olympics about to start, we will no doubt soon be cheering on and celebrating new heroes. Australia's and New Zealand's first Olympians get a mention on p. 4.

There is also more of our Club history (see p.6), thanks to Jenny Gates and our bird this month is the oriole.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, contributors and advertisers.

Charlie Powell

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



As I write this piece, it is getting nearer the 7th of July, a day that brings back a whole lot of memories.

Back in the olden days, when Margaret and I were a lot younger, and dinosaurs roamed the planet, we were living in London in a bed-sit, and travelling around in an old British Post Office van, fitted out, with no cost spared, for camping. (Pictured below, from an old slide we just dug up.)



There was a mattress that sat on an old passage door for a bed, and a one burner cooking arrangement, and that was it. Bare metal roof with no insulation, so you had your shower in the morning from the condensation that accumulated and dropped

from the ceiling. Oh, the luxury.

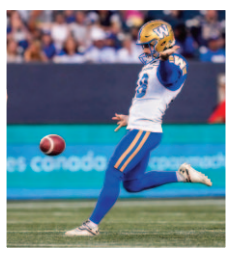
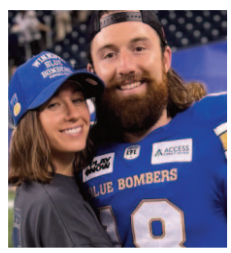
And then one summer in June, we headed off by ferry across the channel to France, and began our tour of the hot spots of Europe. A few highlights were surviving the Munich beer festival, meeting new friends, catching up with old friends, taking in the beautiful sights of Europe, and in the middle of that, camping in Pamplona, Spain, for the "running of the bulls" festival, starting at 7am, the 7th hour, of the 7th day, of the 7th month. The locals all wear red and white, and before the bulls run through the streets, the locals and any brain-dead visitors start running ahead them.

Tens of thousands line the streets cheering the bulls on, and it's like a form of mobile skittles, people being tripped over, run over, and for the really lucky ones, gored by the bulls, which gets you immediate medical attention. It is a memorable spectacle. And the bulls always make it to the finish line, in better shape than most of the human runners.

Now, you might ask, did the Australian run with them? No way! I clucked like a chicken that day.

Take care, and enjoy your summer.

Peter



Alivia and Jamieson Sheahan. Left: provided, and right: Michaela MacKenzie, *Winnipeg Free Press*.

Welcome, Jamieson and Alivia!

Thanks to a chance meeting with DUCW member Terry Roberts, we were reminded that Aussie Jamieson Sheahan has joined the roster of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers as their punter No. 18. A belated letter of welcome was sent to Jamieson, who heralds from Bendigo, and he "... was very pleased to hear of a social club for expat Aussies. I'd love to pop in for an event later in the year, so please keep me informed." And maybe we can organise to attend a game this season.

Welcome, Jamieson and Alivia!

More than
40 years'
South Pacific
experience

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

For more info:
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Last chance to sign up for Haka Rugby Camp

Haka Rugby returns to Winnipeg to host its Elite 3-Day Rugby Camp from **Thursday July 25 to Saturday July 27**.

Rugby Camp is for U8-U16 boys and girls, and runs from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm each day at Assassins Rugby Football Club, Maple Grove Rugby Park, 190 Frobisher Rd.

These camps combine Māori culture and rugby to help develop future world leaders. All coaches are from New Zealand who have played or coached at the highest levels of rugby around the world.

Each camp is a fun way to learn the Māori culture, including the waiata – a traditional song that the kids will perform for their parents on the last day. And on day 1, the coach will perform the karakia, a Māori blessing to spread goodwill over the event.

Players are supported in a safe and controlled environment, and will learn transferable skills at many levels.



Photo by Jenny Gates

Each player receives Māori Haka Fitness testing, and a high quality HRG uniform of 1 pair of shorts and 1 shirt.

Register at <https://hakarugbyglobal.wildapricot.org/event-5517595/Registration>

You can also contact Caleb Stick here in Winnipeg at 204-990-7053 or cpstick@gmail.com.

– Jenny Gates



Congratulations to Downunder Travel Calgary



Happy 20th anniversary to Jason Webb and his entire team at Downunder Travel in Calgary.

"It's not every day your business turns 20, so we figured we should absolutely celebrate this huge milestone. It's been a wild ride with mostly ups and only one downer. We were successful pretty much since day one and remain successful today, all largely due to our incredible team and our amazing clients such as yourselves, for which we are eternally grateful. We are truly humbled to think that we are now moving into our third decade of business." – Jason Webb

DUT celebrated with a good old-fashioned Aussie barbeque on April 12, and wasted no time getting back to work helping all of us recent, pending and would-if-we-could travellers venture south to Australia and New Zealand.

And we can thank and support DUT for their long and fruitful partnership with us by **booking your next trip with them**. In return, DUT will donate \$50 to the DUCW for "...your support and friendships over the last 20 years!" So, think of them first before you travel.

Here's to another 20 years, Downunder Travel Calgary!



The team at Down Under Travel celebrate 20 years in business.

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First Aus/NZ Olympians

[Source: Wikipedia]

Edwin Harold Flack (1873 – 1935) was an Australian athlete and tennis player. Also known as “Teddy”, he was Aus-

tralia’s first Olympian, being its only representative in 1896, and the first Olympic champion in the 800 metres and the 1500 metres running events.

After Flack’s Olympic appearance, he did not compete in any large events again, opting to breed cattle and help his family’s accounting firm. Flack died aged 61 following an operation, and was buried in his hometown of Berwick. He is commemorated there by a bronze statue on High Street and a reserve that includes several sporting grounds. Flack was also inducted into the Sport Australia and Athletics Australia halls of fame in 1985 and 2000, respectively.

New Zealand first sent an independent team to the Olympics in 1920. Prior to this, at the 1908 and 1912 Summer Olympics, New Zealand and Australian athletes competed together in a combined *Australasia* team. New Zealand has also participated in most Winter Olympic Games since 1952, missing only the 1956 and 1964 Games.

The first person from New Zealand to perform at the Olympic Games was **Victor Lindberg**, who competed for the Osborne Swimming Club of Great Britain, which won the Water Polo at the 1900 Summer Olympics.

However, **Harry Kerr** is considered the first Kiwi Olympian. He competed for Australasia in the 1908 Summer Olympics held in London in the 3500 metre walk where he won the bronze medal. This was the first time a New Zealand-born person had won an Olympic medal.



Back from extinction

[Source: ABC Radio Hobart, Lucie Cutting, 14 Jun 2024] A chance meeting has led the company that hopes to bring back **thylacines** to make a \$US75,000 (\$112,567) donation to a



wildlife sanctuary in Tasmania.

Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary director Greg Irons first heard of thylacine de-extinction through a guest to the facility, who encouraged him to get in touch with biotechnology company Colossal Biosciences’ co-founder Ben Lamm. That conversation led to a two-way partnership that includes the transfer of samples from deceased native species and Mr Irons’ involvement in a de-extinction committee.

Called the Thylacine Advisory Committee, the group comprises Tasmanian mayors and people in business and tourism. It’s a small part of planning for the species’ return. No firm date is set for a planned de-extinction of the Tasmanian tiger, but Colossal Biosciences, the company that says the species will return within the decade, is laying the groundwork for its re-emergence. The company says it is also in discussions with government.



A home among the gum trees

[Source ABC News, James Tugwell, 25 Jun 2024] Australia’s first all-natural cemetery is a disused cattle paddock, where a native tree of your choice will be the only grave marker. The aim is for the cemetery to, over time, reforest an 18-hectare farm. It is named *Walawaani Way* and is in Bodalla on the south coast of NSW.

Natural burial is an alternative to traditional cremation or casket burials. It aims to reduce the environmental footprint of the burial process by not embalming the body with plastics and by burying it in a decomposable coffin made from cardboard or cane, without any glue, lacquer or screws. It’s also possible to even forgo a coffin and be buried six feet down wrapped in a simple shroud.



Kate Kellick with a flock of ‘esheep’, mustered by a drone, at Mangamahu, near Whanganui]

Down (up) on the farm

[NZ Herald, Steve Carle, 13 May 2024]

Another large change and benefit to the [farming] business is the use of a drone for mustering. It means a lot of time-saving as compared to using dogs, making sure no sheep are left in the scrub (seen from an aerial view). The drone will fly all around the paddock, up to 7km with a line-of-sight.

Farmers can check on bulls or rams at mating time, inspecting fencelines for holes, sheep troughs and dams for water levels. Ewes and lambs can be checked at lambing time or calving. This saves a lot of time each day.

“In the very wet period of last year, I would go to a high point and fly the drone all over the farm, saving getting stuck. Drones can [even] fly in a drizzle,” Kellick said.

Every farm operation is unique but for her situation using drones has become an important part of their day-to-day operation.



Clearly

[Source: Wikipedia]

Rotomaiwhenua / Blue Lake is a small lake in Nelson Lakes National Park, in the northern reaches of New Zealand’s Southern Alps. Sacred to local Māori, it has the clearest natural fresh water in the world.

Blue Lake lies within the rohe (tribal area) of Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō. As part of the iwi’s 2010 treaty settlement, the lake passed into tribal ownership and was then given back to the Crown. The lake was traditionally used in ceremonies to cleanse the bones and release the spirits of the dead, so they could begin their journey to Hawaiki; the iwi regard its waters as tapu (sacred). (Blue Lake was used only for males; Lake Constance was used for females.) Its Māori name, Rotomaiwhenua, means “the lake of peaceful lands”.





Tourism Winnipeg photo www.winnipeg.com

Cricket Field Upgrades

[Source: Azscore.com, Mitchell Braxton, 24 Jun 2024] Assiniboine Park is undergoing a \$1.6 million upgrade to enhance its cricket facilities, marking a significant step forward for Manitoba's cricket community.

The construction project, which began this spring, includes the installation of new batting and bowling cages. While the number of fields will decrease from three to two, the remaining natural grass surfaces will adhere to the International Cricket Council's dimension standards, providing a more professional feel for cricketers.

Consulted during the planning phase, the Manitoba Cricket Association expressed optimism about the future benefits of the upgrades. According to Garvin Budhoo, past president of the Association, the improvements will position Manitoba as a potential host for national and international competitions in cricket, a sport rapidly gaining popularity.

This investment in the cricket field at Assiniboine Park is the first since 1967,

reflecting a commitment to long-term development. The project features detailed enhancements, including proper field slope for cricket and the use of 'fast grass' to foster authentic gameplay. A new irrigation system will ensure the grass is well-maintained.

The province has contributed \$500,000 towards the construction costs, with completion expected by the fall. However, the grass will require nearly two years to fully mature and withstand the heavy traffic of cricketers.

Achieving international play standards could potentially attract professional cricket to Winnipeg, as highlighted by Archie Pronger, VP of operations for Assiniboine Park. The surging popularity of cricket in Canada and the U.S., driven by immigrants from Asian countries, underscores the significance of such upgrades.

The reinvigorated cricket field is slated to be ready for play in 2026. Other popular local cricket facilities include those at La Barriere Park just south of the city. All promise a bright future for the sport in Manitoba.

Did you know ...

[Source: University of South Australia] Native Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon ambiguus*) is an aromatic grass, with a strong citrus odour, traditionally used by the Aboriginal people to treat flu symptoms, chest infections and skin sores. One of 1,300 different types of Australian grasses, it is very adaptable to a variety of soils. This plant is found widely throughout Australia, except in the cool temperate regions.

Traditional uses – Stalks and leaves may be used in tea. As a medical herb, the leaves and roots of the Native Lemongrass can be combined with hot water as a steam inhalation remedy for colds and chest congestion. Their essential oils may be found in a variety of skincare and beauty products like shampoos, soaps, scrubs and moisturisers.

Common uses – Commercially, cut leaves and use as needed, or freeze to keep fresh for later. Individual leaves may also be chopped and dried for use as a cooking herb. Can also be used as a flavouring ingredient in soups, curries, sauces, marinades and cakes.



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Our Social Events

Between 1950 and 1971, social events were held at various night clubs around the city – Roseland Dance Gardens, Chan's Cafe, Copacabana, and Club Morocco. Christmas and New Year's parties were usually at someone's home.

For our 25th Anniversary in 1974, a social and dance was held at the Sturgeon Creek Masonic Hall, with tickets \$1.50 per person and drinks 40c each. These annual dinner dances continued for several years at the Winnipeg Flying Club, the Wildewood Club and Niakwa Country Club.

In an attempt to attract a wider membership, we held a reception in 1986 at the Ramada Inn, Pembina Highway. More than 100 people showed up, including the Australian Consul-General from Vancouver. The following January, a showing of Australian and New Zealand films at the Museum of Man and Nature drew close to 200 people.

On Saturday April 25, 2015, we organised a huge event to mark 100 years of ANZAC Day. Held at the Western Canada Aviation Museum, approximately 270 invited guests, service personnel, Club members, members of the General Monash Legion, cadets, and the general public enjoyed an ANZAC-inspired afternoon tea catered by the High Tea Bakery. The event included official greetings and remarks, the ANZAC service, greetings from various dignitaries, the playing of the national anthems of Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and a panel discussion on the involvement of ANZACs and Canadians in the First World War conflicts.

Aussie author Michael Robotham came to town (2018) to launch his book "The Other Wife", and several of us joined Terry MacLeod in conversation with Michael at McNally Robinson.



Our not-so-formal dinner has migrated between several fine dining establishments, including Bailey's and the classic train car at Resto Gare (pictured above). Santa and friends at the SCC.



Our gatherings in 2016 and 2017 welcomed Gurcan Kocdag, Hon. Consul General for Turkey, and other guests from the Turkish community. In 2017 we also welcomed Louise Murray from the Australian Embassy in Ottawa, and Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Art Brown RCAF from the Memory Project who spoke about "Canadians at Gallipoli". And we received replacement national flags from the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions (2016).

When COVID struck in March 2020, all in-person Club events were cancelled. Other than the golf tournament and the not-so-formal dinner in 2021, all gatherings were on Zoom. And members were good sports and even better members of the community, keeping safe, staying well, and waiting patiently for better times ahead.

Our many events in recent years include pool parties at the homes of Lynley Davidson and Peter Debenham, not-so-formal dinners at various locations, Annual General Meet-

ings, family Christmas parties, Australia Day and Waitangi Day celebrations, ANZAC Day services, AFL Grand Final pizza parties, Scandinavian Christmas markets and cafés at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre, Australia Day and Sunday brunches at Miss Browns, afternoon tea at the High Tea Bakery, lunch at Prairie's Edge Restaurant, bingo bowls at Windsor Park Bowling Lanes, Commonwealth Day at Government House, golf tournaments at The Players Golf Course, a retro club night at Peter and Joanne Debenham's, wine tastings with the Royal Commonwealth Society at MLCC Grant Park, river boat cruises, zoo visits, Prairie Dog Central railroad trips, and occasional picnics.

Our bake-off items have included meat pies, salad, Vegemite, soup, kids' creations, virtual cupcakes, and anything with kiwi fruit. Absolutely delicious, and very creative!

Next Issue – Our High Commissions and A Place to Call Home

YouTube is an online tool for good and not so good content, but sometimes you can find some real gems. We have uncovered a few interesting funny and newsy-type programs from Australia for your viewing pleasure.

Media Watch – a 15-minute program that identifies, investigates and examines instances of what are determined to be failings in news coverage by Australian media outlets. Host Paul Barry has been at the helm for many years, detailing a mix of amusing or embarrassing editing gaffes, as well as more serious criticism of media bias and breaches of journalistic ethics and standards. Episodes are posted weekly and are eminently watchable.

Australian Story – a half-hour program that presents a story relating to a notable figure or unknown Australian with an interesting story. Episodes tend to explore themes such as heroic achievement, taking a stand, and human weakness. Programs are posted weekly, and are well worth your time.



AFLseason Update

The Home and Away season is now two thirds in the books, and there is a log jam amongst teams 2 to 13 who hope to frank their September finals ticket.

Sitting in position 1A is flag fancy Sydney with 44 points and a healthy percentage of 140.8%. Carlton, who will also challenge for the 2024 premiership is on 44 points with Fremantle and Essendon rounding out the top 4 and the coveted double chance once the whips start cracking come September.

Teams 5 to 13 are separated by 8 points. Geelong [40], Port Adelaide [40] Brisbane [38] and Greater Western Sydney [36] would round out the teams lucky enough to play in finals this year.

Last year's premieres Collingwood also sit on 36 points, but with a lower percentage that would see them be the second consecutive flag winner to miss finals the following season after Geelong saluted in 2022 and failed to qualify in 2023. Melbourne also sits on 36 points, with the Bulldogs, Suns, and Hawthorn hot on the heels of teams above.

One of the most talked about incidents during the past few weeks has been the injury to Melbourne captain and superstar Christian Petracca. He was accidentally kneed in the lower back by Collingwood's Darcy Moore in a marking contest at the end of the first quarter during the traditional King's Birthday clash between the two teams. Whether it was the team doctors or Petracca himself who declared him fit to play on, after struggling to compete during the entire second quarter, it was determined at half time that he had suffered broken ribs, a collapsed lung, and a ruptured spleen in the collision. He was rushed to hospital and



The injured Melbourne captain and superstar Christian Petracca. Photo: Shayne Hope, APP.

underwent surgery to repair some of the damage and will sit out the remainder of the season. To compound his bad luck, he returned to hospital three weeks later to have his appendix removed.

Rounding out the stories from the second third of the season is the race for the Brownlow medal. With so many superstars in the league, the players that continuously show their skill and flair for the game include Patrick Cripps (Carlton), Lachie Neale (Brisbane), Marcus Bontempelli (Bulldogs), and Nick Daicos (Magpies).

One last bit of intrigue involves Jack Crisp (Magpies). He is closing in on legendary Melbourne ruckman Jim Stynes, who won a Brownlow in 1991 and holds the record of 244 games played consecutively. Crisp currently sits on 229. For a footballer who was once called 'a set of steak knives' as a trade throw-in with pick 5 by the Brisbane Lions in order to acquire Collingwood Champion Dayne Beams in 2014, Crisp has been the consummate model of a professional star footballer on the cusp of making AFL ironman history.

Making that trade more significant is the Pies using that pick 5 in 2014 to select star Jordan De Goey. With Crisp and De Goey two of the top 5 performers in last year's grand final that was won by the Pies over Brisbane, the irony is now immortalized in footy folklore for eternity.

– Michael Workman

80yearsAgo...

Ian Hill-Smith, Applecross, Western Australia, RAAF 1941–1945

Ian Hill-Smith enlisted for service on 7 December 1941, training under the Empire Air Training Scheme as a Navigator. He went to Britain and, after operational training, in early 1943 was posted to 101 (Special) Squadron in RAF Bomber Command. Ian flew **Lancaster bombers*** equipped with special electronic counter-measures equipment that jammed radar used by German night-fighters to intercept RAF bombers.

On the night of 5-6 June 1944, Ian took part in an operation to confuse the Germans as to where the Allied forces would be landing. As the invasion force steamed towards Normandy, his squadron sent 24 Lancasters over the Somme area of France, jamming German radar and communications. The Germans reacted by sending night-fighters to attack a 'major bombing force in the Paris area', which did not actually exist, thus reducing aerial opposition over the Allied landings.

After flying further operations in support of Allied forces, Ian Hill-Smith completed his tour of operations on 1 July 1944. He was discharged in October 1945.

*Speaking of Lancasters

Only July 16 and 17, Winnipeg's Royal Aviation Museum will host a visiting classic Avro Lancaster bomber, one of only two remaining aircraft of this type still flying. Get your tickets today!



Hey, Hey It's Saturday – segments from this ridiculously hilarious show from days past are also available for your viewing pleasure – Red Faces, Plucka Duck, Dickie Knee, and the Great Aussie Joke, just to name a few. And you'll be pleasantly reminded of the wit and artistic skill and all-round funniness of the late great John Blackman.



I'm betting there are lots of shows and other interesting stories on YouTube from downunder – especially from New Zealand, if you know of any – so please send their info to us at info@downunderclub.mb.ca and we'll include them in future issues.

Ooh, and don't forget to browse the shelves at McNally Robinson for new books by authors from down under. If second-hand books are more your style, there are lots of used book stores throughout Winnipeg and beyond.

– Jenny Gates





Oriole photo by Charlie Powell

birds*i*view

by Charlie Powell

Oriole

Everything about the oriole's name means golden or yellow: "Oriole" ultimately derives from the Latin *aureolus*, "golden"; the genus name *Icterus* is from the Ancient Greek *ikte-ros*, a yellow bird; and the specific *galbula* is the Latin name for a yellow bird. That makes them unmistakable when they arrive in the spring, and providing a cut orange and/or some grape jelly almost guarantees they will stay a while. At their peak in May/June, we had at least 4 pairs enjoying the free hand-outs.

The common variety in southern Manitoba is the Baltimore oriole. It was so named because of the resemblance of the male's colours to those on the coat-of-arms of 17th-century Lord Baltimore. According to Wikipedia, Cecil Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore (1605 - 1675) was an English politician, peer and lawyer who was the first proprietor of Maryland. Born in Kent in 1605, he inherited the proprietorship after the death of his father, George Calvert, 1st Baron Baltimore, for whom it had been intended.

Calvert proceeded to establish and manage the Province of Maryland as a proprietary colony for English Catholics from his English country house of Kiplin Hall in North Yorkshire.

Orioles belong to the blackbird family and like to feed in tree and shrub canopies for beetles, caterpillars, wasps, etc., and of course, nectar.

Bird Song, by Laura E. Richards

The robin sings of willow-buds,
Of snowflakes on the green;
The bluebird sings of Mayflowers,
The crackling leaves between;
The veery has a thousand tales
To tell to girl and boy;
But the oriole, the oriole,
Sings, "Joy! joy! joy!"

The pewee calls his little mate,
Sweet Phoebe, gone astray,
The warbler sings, "What fun, what fun,
To tilt upon the spray!"
The cuckoo has no song, but clucks,
Like any wooden toy;
But the oriole, the oriole,
Sings, "Joy! joy! joy!"

The grosbeak sings the rose's birth,
And paints her on his breast;
The sparrow sings of speckled eggs,
Soft brooded in the nest.
The wood-thrush sings of peace, "Sweet peace,
Sweet peace," without alloy;
But the oriole, the oriole,
Sings "Joy! joy! joy!"



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