

# The Southern Yarn

September–October 2024



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

## downundercalendar

### NOVEMBER

**75th Anniversary Dinner**  
**Saturday November 9, 6:00 pm**  
**Venue to be decided**

You are invited to our 75th anniversary dinner. Because this is such an important milestone, we are considering two fine dining restaurants, and we need your help to secure the best venue. If you are definitely or even possibly interested in attending, please **email us by Friday Sept 27** at [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca). For more info about this event, see article opposite.

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Friday November 29, 7:00 pm**  
**Munn's Residence**  
**86 Clonard St, Winnipeg**

Nothing like a change of venue to entice you out to our AGM. Join us at the home of Peter and Margaret Munn for a comfy meeting where we'll look back at the year that was and talk about what's in store for the year ahead. We will be electing our executive for 2025, and invite you to consider standing for a role. We welcome your ideas and suggestions, so come along, make a difference, and enjoy snacks and drinks.

### DECEMBER

**Family Christmas Party**  
**Sunday December 8, 4:00 pm**  
**Scandinavian Cultural Centre**  
**764 Erin Street, Winnipeg**

A wonderful event for families and friends! More info in the next issue of the *Yarn*, but kids of all ages are encouraged to attend.

### AHEAD IN 2025

**Australia Day and Waitangi Day**  
**Saturday February 1**  
**Scandinavian Cultural Centre**  
**764 Erin Street, Winnipeg**

Our Cook-off theme will be LASAGNA, the perfect mid-winter potluck dish. More info in the next issue of the *Yarn*.



## Golf Tournament

We had a great day at the links again. Along with some new welcomed participants, many of the usual suspects met in the ongoing and easygoing DUCW golf tournament. The weather was kind to us again, and the usual good time was had by all. In a stunning result, the team of Peter M and Andrew C pulled defeat from the jaws of victory, even after playing just the first hole. There was a

thrilling finish between the teams led by Charlie P and Peter D, where they eventually tied to become joint Champions. Charlie also took the prize for Closest to the Pin honours, and the new gorilla on the block, Arnold "Long Drive" Kleiber, took Long Drive honours. It was another good day, and a good lunch, so set some time aside next August for the 2025 edition. – Peter Munn

## 75th Anniversary Dinner Event

You are cordially invited to formally celebrate our 75th anniversary by joining us on **November 9** for a wonderful dinner event.

We'll also be inviting past members and friends, and a few special guests. If there is anyone you'd like to invite, feel free to do that – but be sure to let us know their names so we can follow up with them if necessary. And if you want us to contact them, please send us their names and contact info.

The fine dining restaurant is being decided, which is why we have asked you to let us know if (a) you are **definitely** attend-

ing, or (b) you are **interested** in attending.

This is to give us an idea of possible numbers so we can book the right venue. Please email us at [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca) with a yes or a maybe by **Friday Sept 27** – we won't need final numbers until sometime in October.

With several surprises and honours being planned, and given our remarkable achievement, this is an event you do not want to miss. So let us know if you would like to be part of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner event, and help us make it a night for the history books.

*Catherine Bowering, event organiser*



### 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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# editorially yours

(usually) Charlie Powell



## guest editor: Jenny Gates

It's a lot of work and a big commitment to produce a newsletter on a regular basis, and because we're so appreciative of Charlie Powell's efforts, I'm guesting here in his stead. Thank you, Mr Editor.

In this our 75th year, there is much to celebrate, not the least of which is we are still a going concern and an active club with a committed executive driving things along. And to make the year even more special, we are planning on a wide swath of events for you to enjoy.

On September 27, a group of us will be at the Blue Bombers game to cheer on the team and Aussie punter Jamieson Sheahan.

And that will be followed by our very special 75th anniversary dinner (p.1), as well as the AGM at a new, more relaxed venue - more info on that and other upcoming events in the Nov/Dec issue.

In this issue, enjoy reading about the golf tournament (p.1), Toby and Jen's adventure and the Haka Camp report (p.3), news from down under (p.4), a new book from a new member (p.5), the next installment in our history (p. 6), the AFL update (p. 7) and all about birds (p. 8).

Thanks to **Charlie, Peter, Toby, Penny, Mike**, and our advertisers. Enjoy the read.

- Jenny



If you are looking for a ready-made road trip or guided tour adventure in New Zealand with stunning scenery, world-class wines, luxury lodges, quiet hideaways and friendly locals, or want to explore any number of get-away destinations and epic adventures in every Australian state, then contact our friends at Downunder Travel in Calgary - 1-866-470-4414 - to talk about your next trip down under.

# president's ramblings

Peter Munn



I enjoy writing these reports for *The Southern Yarn*,

though each issue I wonder what topic may be of interest to you. Last issue was basically a homage to a British Post Office retired van (BUV 307B) that took Margaret and me around Europe back in the last ice age. So, on the subject of automobiles, what follows is a remembrance of automobiles I have travelled in the past \*\*\* or so years.

First car I owned was a 1938 Willys sedan, hand painted, forest green, with mechanical brakes, that I upgraded by inserting a can opener in a vital fulcrum point so the brakes would even operate. Victorian licence plate 162-070. Cost 15 quid, but had big wheel covers that let me be my cricket team's hauler of the coir pitch mats.

Interestingly, today's new range of Jeeps have a model that is named Willys. The ubiquitous jeeps of WWII were made by Willys. Next car was a new Volkswagen bug, Victorian licence plate HZG 559, seat belts optional. It was sold before I set foot in Europe, via South African Airlines. Landed in Johannesburg, met some great people, stayed around a while before a chance



meeting with a Rhodesian gal (Big Anne), introduced me to the love of my life, Margaret, who I proposed to 9 days later.

That was 51 years ago, so a good decision. Margaret tells me I only wanted her car, TRG-23806, but that's not true. The TR stands for Transvaal, the Province, and the G stands for Germiston, a suburb of Johannesburg. That car was sold, and we backpacked our way to Kenya, took a boat to India, then west via trains, planes, and automobiles to London. There we purchased the British Post Office van (BUV 307B) referred to in the last edition of the *Yarn*, and travelled Europe.

We eventually sailed via the good ship Lollypop (oops, it was the *Stefan Batory*) from Tilbury docks in England to Montreal, where Margaret's parents picked us up and drove all of us to Winnipeg.

First car here was a Chevy, AWW 996, and there have been a few up until now, where our two current autos registrations are AUS 342 and AUS 343.

Have a great end of summer.

- Peter

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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**Eastern Canada adventure** “Jen and I have been travelling the east coast to celebrate a milestone birthday – my 50th. A fun stop was Minister’s Island near Saint Andrews, New Brunswick. This island is only accessible at low tide (just a few hours a day) where you can

drive over a gravel path to the island. At high tide the path is 15 feet under water. In addition to touring a mansion and massive barn, we walked a number of trails around the island. One spot took us down to some neat sandstone caves and rocky beach.” - Toby Elson



Coaches and participants at the end of camp. Future player watches the final farewell. Photos by Jenny Gates



Big thanks to Lynley, Ryan and Owen for welcoming us to their home for our annual pool party. Beautiful day, a fabulous BBQ, some friends in from out of town, including past-member Patrick McGrath, and a great opportunity to chat and catch up.

### Haka Rugby back in the Peg

From July 25 to 27, Haka Rugby Global brought their Elite Rugby Camp to Maple Grove Rugby Park in St. Vital. Designed for boys and girls U8 to U16, these camps focus on the Māori culture, rugby, and developing the sport at the grass roots level. Local organiser Caleb Stick kept us in the loop, Beau Fritzsche from Bounce 99.9 did a live interview, and the *Free Press* and our friend Simon Fuller published another great article.

Haka Rugby will be back again next year, so start planning to sign up your kids for this brilliant opportunity to advance their life and leadership skills.

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## Big Roy

The Versatile Model 1080 was designed and built in 1977.

There is some suggestion that the design was aimed at the Australian market as Australia possesses many large farms with all acreage in one block. A very large tractor in Australia would pose fewer problems than it would in North America where large farms have their land base in a number of scattered blocks. This means farm machinery must move on roads. Large tractors and their associated machinery pose significant problems in road transport.

Whatever the reason, Versatile's President and GM Roy Robinson decided the company needed a high-horsepower tractor and issued orders that the Model 1080 be designed and built. What emerged from the designers' drafting table was a 4-axle tractor powered by a Cummins KTA-1150 diesel engine that generated 600 horsepower. The four axles mounted a total of eight 30.5 X 32 tires. Built in Winnipeg, you can see it at the Agricultural Museum in Austin.



## That niggly COVID

Ciara Smart is used to leaving people in disbelief when she tells them what she does in her spare time. Ms Smart is a cave explorer.

Over the past two years she and a team from the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers have made more than 30 trips to Mt Field National Park, north-west of Hobart, to map out a newly discovered cave in Australia's deepest-known cave system.

The cave was found by fellow caving group member Stephen Fordyce in January 2022 and named Delta Variant as a nod to the COVID-19 pandemic. "All of the different features of the cave are named after things that happened during the pandemic, which really dates it to this time," Ms Smart told ABC Radio Hobart.

Delta Variant, part of Tasmania's Niggly/Growling Swallet cave system, sits adjacent

to Niggly Cave, which held the previous record for Australia's deepest-known cave at 397 m. While the team discovered the cave's depth in July 2022, it's taken two years and 30 expeditions to map it.



## Cosmic farming

La Trobe University and Gaia Project Australia were named finalists in NASA's Deep Space Food Challenge. Their project is to grow food for long space journeys such as the Artemis missions to the moon and Mars. The team created a vertical farm where leafy and micro greens are grown in a controlled environment in 28 days instead of the three months it would normally take in soil.

The project was created by experts from La Trobe's engineering and plant sciences departments and the team at Gaia Project Australia took six months to design and build a prototype that NASA could take to space to feed astronauts. The team, called Enigma of the Cosmos, travelled to Ohio in the US for the final in mid-August, where the winners were chosen by NASA.

La Trobe Engineering Lecturer Dr Alex Stumpf said the project was the only finalist in Australia and competed with several international and US projects.



## New Māori Monarch

[Source: ABC News, Toby Mann & Emily Clark, 5 Sep 2024] Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII has been laid to rest in New Zealand and his youngest child and only daughter has been named as the new Māori monarch.

Kuini Nga Wai Hono i te Po was raised up in a ceremony known as te Whakawahinga, in front of thousands of people gathered to



mourn Kiingi Tuheitia.

She is the second woman to be named monarch and the second youngest person to hold the position in the 160-year history of the Māori royal movement.

A bible was placed on her head, the same bible used to anoint the first Māori King Pootatau Te Wherowhero in 1858.



On Thursday morning, Archbishop Don Tamihere said a karakia – or chant – and used sacred oils to bestow prestige, sacredness, power and spiritual essence upon Kuini Nga Wai Hono i te Po.



## Click (don't) go the shears

[Source: Coast & Country News, Catherine Fry, 23 Aug, 2024] Rotorua farmers John and Catherine Ford are exploring self-shedding and hairy sheep options.

"By 2017/2018 it was clear that wool prices were dropping off sharply," John said. "We were paying \$90,000 a year to shear, dag and crutch the sheep and selling the wool for \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year. That wasn't sustainable. We were also working around shearing gang availability, and weaning lambs early to accommodate bringing the ewes in for shearing."

Since 1998, John has been part of a farm group discussing using self-shedding sheep, in particular Wiltshire that were readily available in NZ at the time. In 2019, a decision was made to bring in purebred Wiltshire rams and breed until they had a purebred Wiltshire ewe flock. And in 2024, half the ewes are half-bred Wiltshire and the other half are three-quarter-bred Wiltshire. The result is less shearing and slightly better carcass weight per kilo of live weight.



## Nature's clean-up crew

[Source: Coast & Country News, Debbie Griffiths, 3 Aug, 2024] They may be small, but they're mighty. Dung beetles are hard at work cleaning up



three Katikati properties as part of a 10-year trial. The insects are a self-sustainable, low-cost solution to one of our farming industry's biggest environmental concerns: cleaning up livestock manure.

The idea to introduce them locally was proposed six years ago by the former head of Project Parore, Lawrie Donald, who saw research that dung beetles increase the rate of dung decomposition, improve nutrient cycling, bioturbation and plant growth, and suppress parasites.

Now there is over 100 million tonnes of manure each year. Donald said bacteria and worms do a certain amount of clean-up, but the dung beetles are faster. "They do it quickly and efficiently, improving soil permeability and reducing the levels of nutrient and E-coli run off into waterways," Donald said.



### Christchurch hosts Te Whakairinga Mutu / The Air Force Museum of New Zealand.

The Air Force Museum of New Zealand is the national museum for the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) and New Zealand military aviation, and stands on the site of the former air base at Wigram, Christchurch.

And the Museum has been gifted a name in Te Reo Māori - Te Whakairinga Mutu, which means the final posting.

The name was gifted to the Museum by the RNZAF's Māori cultural advisor in consultation with Ngai Tahu. The name reflects the museum's place as a national war memorial and a museum that stores, cares for and displays all of the RNZAF/Te Tauaarangi o Aotearoa's taonga.



### Myall by Pamela Rayner Moore

We recently welcomed expat Aussie Pamela Rayner Moore as a member of the DUCW. And a few days later, I met with Pam at the River Heights Farmers Market, along with her granddaughter, June.

In our initial conversation, I learned that Pam had recently published a book, and as a retired book editor, I was immediately intrigued - hence the visit to the market.

*Myall* is a beautiful, exciting and mysterious story about the wild adventures of two teenage girls in the coastal and hinterlands of New South Wales. When the girls see a Tasmanian tiger, despite it being declared extinct in 1936, they set out to uncover the mystery in the Myall. This fictional re-wilding area is accessible only to the Worimi Aboriginal people who are its stewards and who fiercely guard its secrets. Before long, the girls team up with other friendly young people they encounter, and together they become entangled in many adventures. In the tradition of Enid Blyton, they also end up "saving the day".

Pam hopes her book about ordinary kids in extraordinary circumstances will provide an escape for young readers. And the reality of extinction and climate change adds yet another dimension to an otherwise fictional story.

The artwork woven throughout the book was created by Pam during trips back to Australia over the years.

"I'm proud to have published this book at eighty years old, a story that has been waiting to be written for 73 years," says Pam. "By nature, I've always been passionate and determined, so learning to also be an entrepreneur has been an adventure on its own."

For more information or to purchase a copy, or to see and purchase some of Pam's artwork, contact her at [pamgordm@mts.net](mailto:pamgordm@mts.net).

- Jenny Gates



**Raccoon Time:** Penny Hooper loves flowers of all shapes, sizes and colours, and she spends many hours enjoying them in her garden and sharing photos of them with us online. Recently, she welcomed a troop of raccoons who dropped in to admire all her hard work.

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# 75years&counting

## Our High Commissions

The Australian and the New Zealand High Commissions in Ottawa have always been a support to the DUCW.

Over the years, we welcomed Australian High Commissioners Tony Healy, Graham Kelly, Bill Fisher and Adrian Morrison, New Zealand High Commissioners Simon Tucker and Daniel Mell-sop, and Senior Trade Commissioner Australia Sally-Ann Watts (AHC).

A few years after Section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 was changed in 2007 to allow dual citizenship, several of our members became Canadian citizens. In 2016, the AHC held an information evening about the provision of Australian Government services, and over the next three years, consular staff came to Winnipeg to conduct in-person interviews, provide notarial services, and hold alumni networking events.

Unfortunately, COVID forced those visits to end, leaving the only option for our Aussie members to renew current passports online, and apply for new or expired passports in person at AHC offices in Vancouver and Ottawa.

## A Place To Call Home

The lack of a suitable meeting place sometimes worked against the growth of the DUCW.

Member numbers have fluctuated over the years, but there has always been a core group who continue to pursue various avenues to promote what we were about, reach out to members throughout the province and beyond, connect with entities here and down under, and all the while support our members and their families and friends.

Other than members' homes and assorted other spots for events in the early days, there were two opportunities for a possible home, one that never got off the ground, and one that did.

Originally conceived by member Jenny Gates, Corroboree was intended as an enviro cross-cultural education centre based in



AHC Alumni event 2017; NZHC visit 2018; Peter Debenham, Chris Brasher and Jenny Gates become dual Australian and Canadian citizens; and the Scandinavian Cultural Centre.

Winnipeg. It grew out of the idea to provide a permanent home for the DUCW, to hold all our events, and to allow us to welcome visiting dignitaries, as well as to stage special events and programming.

Corroboree aimed to provide an opportunity to develop Australian, New Zealand and Canadian relations through programming in education, the environment, arts and culture, sports, and indigenous studies. The overall goal was to facilitate partnerships between all three countries and various local and international entities, and encourage an active sharing of materials, ideas, exhibits, screenings, performances, scholarships, and exchange programs for students and performers. Unfortunately, despite a lot of local and international support, that idea never raised the required funds and was eventually shelved.



Then early in 2005, Club member David Denesovych suggested the Scandinavian Cultural Centre (SCC), and we have held many of our gatherings in that location ever since.

For the foreseeable future, the DUCW will continue meeting at the SCC for events marking Australia Day and Waitangi Day, ANZAC Day, social gatherings, and the Family Christmas Party. So, come on down and be part of the fun and the festivities, the community and camaraderie.

Next Issue - Folklorama



### Exotic delicacies now locally!

The British Food Co. at 3125 Portage Ave has Auntie's Steamed Puds, and also Soreen Malt Loaf - or, as the wrapper claims, "squidgy cake". And Molly's Meat Pies at Unit-G 390 Provencher Blvd still has the best, most downunder-like meat pies after all these years.

# AFLseason Update

With the home and away season done and dusted, it took until the last game of the last round to determine who gets to fight for September glory and who became the also rans of season 2024. Like they have all season, Sydney stayed atop the ladder and will face their crosstown rivals GWS in week one of the finals. Rounding out the top 4 and the double chance, Port Adelaide have earned a home final and will play Geelong.

Week 1 of the finals also pits The Western Bulldogs against surprise finalists Hawthorn and last year's runners-up Brisbane to play Carlton at the Gabba. Carlton's superior percentage saw them claim the 8th and final playoff spot, denying archrivals Collingwood a chance to defend their championship, with both teams ending the season on 52 points.

While the top 8 teams will get all the press over the next 4 weeks until the 2024 flag is won on September 28, it's worth taking a look at how the 10 other teams fared this year, along with some of the bigger stories from the year that was in the AFL.

To state that Richmond, North Melbourne, and West Coast underachieved in 2024 would assume their goal at the beginning of the year was to achieve something on the footy field resembling success. The 3 bottom dwellers combined accounted for a paltry 10 wins or 40 points, which was still 12 points and dozens of percentage shy of 8th place Carlton.

After saluting in 2017, 2019 and 2020, it's been Richmond's slide into footy oblivion that has been the most dramatic. An aging list resulting in plenty of A graders hanging up their boots, a senior coach jumping ship mid-2023 to take a post with the Gold Coast Suns this year, and no ready-made talent to fill the voids, it was no surprise to many that the Tigers claimed this year's wooden spoon.



Scott Pendlebury being chaired off by flag-mates J. Howe and S. Sidebottom after 400th game and a 3-point victory over arch rival Carlton. [Image: Getty]

Even with the addition of number 1 pick Harley Reid, West Coast also found it difficult to claim victories, having been a flag winner in recent memory, downing the Magpies in 2018 under a dubious non-call that allowed Dom Sheed to win the Grand Final with a set shot for the ages.

Looking at the middle of the pack, Adelaide, Melbourne, Gold Coast, St. Kilda and Essendon all showed glimpses of greatness and won enough games to give their supporters reason to turn up every week. But a combination of form drop-offs, game fade outs and untimely injuries saw all 5 teams join the ranks of the 'coulda, woulda, shoulda' group not seeing action in September.

Finishing 10th, the Dockers had a chance in the last round to control their season's destiny by beating Port Adelaide in Fremantle, thus usurping Carlton by 2 points to claim 8th spot. Alas, they were unable to achieve this goal and missed the finals after showing plenty of promise in a tightly contested 24 rounds of footy. And Collingwood will be disappointed to finish 9th after win-

ning a record equalling 16th flag in 2023. The Magpies season never really gained momentum and, in the end, the forced medical retirement of key defender Nathan Murphy, injuries to important pieces of the 2023 premiership team, and 2 costly draws and a 4th quarter fade out to the Swans in round 22 all combined to thwart the team's chance at a repeat championship.

Of some consolation, Magpie Nick Daicos was named the coaches choice for Champion Player of the Year, while also being in contention for mark and goal of the year and a Brownlow medal favourite – all at age 21!

Three of the year's top stories would include Demon Christian Petracca's horrific injury, the Hawks meteoric rise up the ladder from 16th in 2023 to 7th and a finals berth in 2024, and Magpie Scott Pendlebury joining only 5 other VFL/AFL players in reaching 400 [and counting] games played. The Petracca saga has exploded as the champion midfielder was not impressed with the manner in which the Demons dealt with the immediate impact of his injury, which turned out to be life threatening. The playing group was also in the dark as to why CP was permitted to convalesce on the Gold Coast for a few weeks. The combination of these 2 situations and lack of authentic communication amongst those at the Demons led Christian to seek a trade. The drama has played out with Petracca committed to wearing the blue and red in 2025 (at least).



## Aussies in MGs stop at centre of Canada, visit Lt Gov

In mid-July, a group of Aussies and their 5 classic MGB GTs made a stop in Manitoba during their travels across Canada. After a photo stop at Centre of Canada Park East, they arrived at Government House where they were greeted by Her Honour Anita Neville, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. The group was treated to a friendly turnout of members of the British Car Club of Manitoba (BCCM) and 24 other classic cars. After a picnic in St. Vital Park, the group headed east. For anyone interested in finding out more about the BCCM, visit their website [<https://britishcarclubofmb.ca/>] for info about membership and events.

## Did you know ...

In 2018, Adelaide chocolate-maker Robern Menz bought the iconic favourite Violet Crumble back from Swiss giant Nestlé. Rowntree Hoadley made it in Adelaide until the 1980s when it was manufactured by the Swiss company, but now it's back where it all started. Cadbury's Crunchie dates back to about 1929, while the Violet Crumble bar was first produced in 1913.

And the really good news? Here in Winnipeg, Violet Crumbles are available at 7-Eleven. You're welcome!





## birds i view

by Charlie Powell

### Ravens

Ravens belong to the Family Corvidae; and the Genus is *Corvus* which also includes crows, jays and magpies (but not the Australian magpie). Our common North American crow is *Corvus brachyrhynchos* and the one commonly seen in Australia is *C. coronoides*, which is actually the Australian Raven and is distinguished by a white iris (adult).

Down under they are all colloquially called “crows” – even the Adelaide football team. New Zealand’s member of the family is the rook, *Corvus frugilegus*, introduced from Britain in the 1800s – their native raven having gone extinct centuries earlier. Apart from its greater size, the common raven differs from its cousins, the crows, by having a larger and heavier black beak, shaggy feathers around the throat and above the beak, and a wedge-shaped tail.

Ravens have many vocalizations, but commonly it’s a deep, guttural, far-carrying,

repetitive *craww-craww* or *quork-quork*. They’ll pull rank on a flock of gulls to steal food, harass soaring hawks and dine on road-kill and garbage dumps. They’ve been seen waiting in trees as ewes give birth, then attacking the newborn lambs.

The Common Raven is an acrobatic flier, often doing rolls and somersaults in the air. One bird was seen flying upside down for more than a half-mile. They have been seen to be playfully sliding down snowbanks. Young birds are fond of playing games with sticks, repeatedly dropping them, then diving to catch them in midair. They even engage in games with other species, such as playing catch-me-if-you-can with wolves, otters and dogs. Magpies are also members of the Corvidae family, and if you’re wondering how to avoid them during swooping season, check out the link through the QR code.



### Death of a Raven

a poem by Desanka Maksimović  
(translated by Stephen Capus)

It’s the last day of the old raven.  
His turn has come and soon a pall  
Of darkness will cover him up. But for now  
He suspects nothing at all  
As he plods along over virgin snow  
Like a peasant, flits up and alights  
On a bush, shakes the ice  
From a branch, rubs his beak on his claw...  
From behind the blue mountain a moon is emerging,  
Colder, more vast than ever was seen hitherto,  
As though slowly a door were opening  
To let the old raven pass through.

### A great opportunity

We have several social events in the works for our 75th anniversary year, and we could use a bit of help organising one or more of them. Seventy-five years is a pretty big deal in clubs like ours, so if you’re interested in helping us out, please contact Jenny at [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca) or 204-228-9959.



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