

# The Southern Yarn

November–December 2024



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

## downundercalendar

### NOVEMBER

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

Join us for our other not-so-formal highlight of the year. The AGM is when we get to review our raison d'être and our continuous improvement strategy. Any and all input is welcome. Come along and 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**

This is a wonderful event for families and friends to celebrate the Christmas season! Children 12 and under are invited to attend and receive a special present from Santa. So, please let Head Elf Margaret Munn know their names and ages by MONDAY DECEMBER 2 so we can give Santa's elves plenty of time to pack everything into the sleigh. Contact Margaret at 204-237-1805 or info@downunderclub.mb.ca. This is also a potluck supper, so please bring to share either a main dish, or veggie, salad or dessert. The bar will be open, and we are looking forward to celebrating the festive season with you all.

### FEBRUARY 2025

**Australia Day and Waitangi Day**  
**Saturday February 1, 5:00 pm**  
**Scandinavian Cultural Centre**  
**764 Erin Street, Winnipeg**

Mid-winter is the perfect time to warm up and get together with familiar faces – and, who knows, some new Aussies and Kiwis might also drop by. As we did last year, come for the food and stay for the fun. There will be a "Cook Off" – this year it will be LASAGNA. And if you're not taking part in the Cook Off, please bring a plate, either a main dish, or veggies, salad or dessert for the potluck supper. The social time will include a trivia mini-quiz, two-up, prizes, and yes, the bar will be open.



## Oh, What a Night!

Our **75th Anniversary Dinner Event** at Bailey's Restaurant on Saturday November 9 was a huge success. We welcomed 44 current and past members and guests, and we celebrated with excellent food, engaging conversation, and laughter, reflections and camaraderie.

During the evening, attendees were invited to share thoughts and highlights about the Club, and in addition to memories shared in person, we collected a number of 3x5 cards with handwritten messages.

Some special thanks. To **Catherine Bowering** for finding and liaising with the venue. To **John and Francois** at Bailey's for setting everything up so beautifully, and

head server **Hero** for taking care of us. To **Margaret Munn** for providing all manner of ideas and suggestions, including the six Vegemite jar floral arrangements. To **Judy Powell** for the flags and other Aussie and Kiwi bits and bobs. To **Ed Powell** for the excellent 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary artwork (p.4). To **Jenny Gates** for all the email invitations and communications. To **Brian Hydesmith** for taking all the photos on the night. To the **anonymous donor** who gifted us the Black Forest Cake for dessert and the Prosecco for the toasts. And to all of you who joined us and made the celebration a night to remember for the next 75 years.

More pictures on page 5.

### 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  
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# editorially yours

Charlie Powell



For Remembrance

Day\* this year, we attended the Service in the small rural hamlet of Domain, Manitoba. It was heartening to see the turnout – especially young families.

The outdoor elements included the usual wreath-laying, reading names of locals who enlisted for WWI and II, and Last Post, Rouse and National Anthem, all under surprisingly “mild” weather for this time of year. That was followed with an indoor gathering in the very spacious Community Centre.

One of the few solemn formalities was a projected showing of Terry Kelly’s “A Pittance of Time” music video – you can easily Google it and is worth watching! Children’s participation had been pre-encouraged with an art competition. The results were on display and winners were announced and prizes awarded. Then all were treated to refreshments – donuts, tea, coffee and time to view the artwork and chat with friends.

[\*I guess I should explain, for those who are not aware ... In Canada, Remembrance Day is commemorated much the same as ANZAC Day is down under.]

As Jenny Gates explains (p.7), our *Southern Yarn* may or may not remain at its current 8 pages – it will largely depend on how much original content is shared by members and readers.

Oh, and it’s time to renew your membership (p.3).

As always, thank you to our advertisers, Peter, Jenny, Brian, Ed, Mike, ....



# president’s ramblings

Peter Munn



It is just a few days since we enjoyed our 75th anniversary dinner at Bailey’s restaurant. I thought it was a great success, and so good to see those past members who were able to attend. And special thanks to Catherine Bowering and Jenny Gates, who both did so much to pull the event together.

We are having the DUCW annual meeting later this month, and for something different, we are holding it at my home (see p. 1). Reason being we unfortunately have fewer and fewer members coming to the annual meetings, and the usual stalwarts pick up the load of running the club, again. We are a great group of people on the Board, so feel free to give me a call at (204) 237-1805 to ask about how you can participate in the running of the Club.

Talking about squirrels – weren’t we? ... the great-great-grandson of the peskiest red squirrel we ever had to deal with in the past has decided to make a home in our shed area. Unfortunately, he is a destructive little b\*\*\*\*\*, and at last count he has chewed off about 20 Christmas lights from

various strings around the house, as well as electric cord damage, and eaten holes in the wood walls to give him escape routes. He is very territorial, and when juncos and sparrows are eating millet spread on the lawn, he divebombs the birds to get rid of them. And he does the same to any grey squirrels that wander into the yard.

Our Christmas party this year is once again at the Scandinavian Centre on December 8 (see p. 1) And please, don’t forget to register your younger children for a gift from Santa, who I have been assured will be there with bells on.

To register your younger children, contact Head Elf Margaret Munn at (204) 237-1805 or [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca).

Take care folks,

Peter



## 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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Leon Badali, Les Fitt, Katrina Epp, Jenny Gates, Penny Hooper, Judy Powell, Charlie Powell, and Margaret and Peter Munn.

## Farewell Penny and Sam

On Saturday October 26, a few of us from the DUCW gathered at the High Tea Bakery to farewell long-time members Penny Hooper and Sam Hechter.

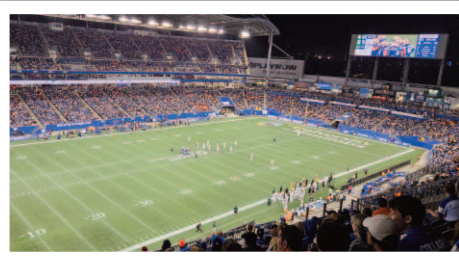
Penny and Sam have made the decision to move to Wellington, New Zealand, and they flew out on Friday November 8.

We were excited to hear about their travel plans that will take them from here to there – just in time for summer. And while savour-

ing lamingtons, big cookies and other yummy treats over tea and coffee, we enjoyed a fun and engaging conversation in the company of good friends. It was a fantastic way to farewell two people who mean so much to all of us.

All good things ahead, Penny and Sam. Safe travels for you both, and will hopefully see you sometime in the near future.

All your friends in the Down Under Club of Winnipeg



## What a game!

On Friday September 27, nineteen of us from the DUCW attended one of the most exciting Blue Bombers' games of the season at Princess Auto Stadium.

Not only did the team storm the field with a 55 – 27 win over the Edmonton Elks, but we did our best to support Aussie punter **Jamieson Sheahan** with flags and other Aussie items, even though he likely wouldn't have heard or seen us from our lofty spot in the stands.

It was a great night, and we're already looking ahead to an even bigger group of us next year.

– Jenny Gates



## NOW IS THE TIME to renew for 2025

Your membership is due, and we are ready to take your money. The DUCW is still the best value in town at only \$20 for an individual membership, or \$30 for a couple or family. You can pay your dues by E-transfer or cheque:

- pay by **E-TRANSFER** – register the Down Under Club as a new interact recipient, using our email address – [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca) – and pay the appropriate membership amount due – individual \$20 or family/couple \$30. Your payment will go directly into the Club's bank account at RBC
- pay by **CHEQUE** – make out to The Down Under Club of Winnipeg and send to Stn Main, PO Box 1655, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6 (Canada)

For more info, go to our Payment page [[downunderclub.mb.ca/membership/payment](https://downunderclub.mb.ca/membership/payment)] on our website. You can also point your phone at the QR code to reach that page.

We also encourage you to take a moment to let us know if any of your contacts and address details have changed so we can make sure we have all your information correct – you can also complete the form online [downunderclub.mb.ca/membership/sign-up-form/](https://downunderclub.mb.ca/membership/sign-up-form/) or use this second QR code.

If you have any questions, email Jenny at [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca) or 204-228-9959. Any issues paying by e-transfer, contact Peter Debenham via email at [pdebenham51@gmail.com](mailto:pdebenham51@gmail.com) or 204-955-0393.





Huge thanks to Ed Powell for his brilliant art piece in honour of our 75th anniversary celebrations

# Celebrating 75 years



# 75 years & counting

## Folklorama

In 1992, the Club was approached by Sue Gel and others to see if there was something we could do to expand. And that October, we held a very successful social, and the more than \$1,300 that was raised allowed us to sponsor the first Folklorama Pavilion the following year.

Also in 1993, we became incorporated as the Down Under Club of Winnipeg Inc., adopted bylaws, elected a board, and were well on our way to a new beginning.

Our first two Folklorama Pavilions in 1993 and 1994 featured Australis, a down under band from Toronto, and were extremely well attended by visitors.

Our third pavilion in 1997 featured Up From Down Under, a local group of musicians consisting of Jay Taylor, John Hudson, Kevin Cockle and Bill Spornitz. They were joined by Jenny Gates and Gerry Gordon, and played a variety of songs from Australia and New Zealand. The Vegemite Kids also joined us on stage to sing and perform various Indigenous dances.

In 2000, Tal-Kin-Jeri, an Aboriginal group from Australia, travelled all the way to the Peg to share their culture and their stories. That was followed up in 2001 when we welcomed Kahurangi Rangatahi, a Māori group from New Zealand.

Our final pavilion was in August 2004, when Tal-Kin-Jeri returned for a repeat performance. Also on stage was Powerage with Tim Debenham and friends, and Up From Down Under with Jenny and Gerry.

All six of our pavilions were extremely popular and hugely successful, keeping our members and other volunteers busy. Enthusiastic crowds packed the house each night, and we were truly indebted to all who helped out.

Next issue: Getting the word out!



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# AFLseason Update

G'day footy fans,

The only certainty as the finals began in September was that on Saturday September, 28, 2024, a new premier would be hoisting the premiership cup after last year's flag winners, Collingwood, failed to qualify for a chance to defend their title. One of the most evenly contested home-and-away fixtures meant the finals were set to be not only exciting, but open to all and sundry to claim the chocolates.

After 23 rounds of footy, Sydney sat on top of the ladder and could arguably be considered the favourites to take out their first flag since 2012. The Swans lived up to expectations by winning 2 home finals and reaching the grand final for the 5th time in 12 years under senior coach John Longmire. With a ledger of 1 win and 3 losses, the Swans were looking to frank their Coach's status as one of the greatest ever.

Carlton and Western - Footscray to the footy purest reading this - were the first to bow out in the first week, losing to last year's runners up Brisbane at the Gabba, and the upstart Hawthorn Hawks, respectively. The other team to move on to a preliminary final was perennial finals maker Geelong who smashed Port Adelaide by 86 points. Also losing in week 1 were the GWS Giants who relinquished a 21-point 4th quarter lead and capitulated to the Swans, after giving up 6 goals to only 2 majors of their own in the final term.

All this first week finals action set up elimination games in week 2 with Port Adelaide and GWS making use of their double chance, and hosting week 1 winners Hawthorn and Brisbane on their home decks. Both games proved to be nailbiters. PA hung on to beat Hawthorn by 3 points after the Hawks captain James Sicily missed a gettable shot at goal in the dying moments of the match.

Compounding the agro between the 2 combatants was a pregame quip by Jack Ginnivan to former Collingwood teammate and present Swans ruckman Brodie Grundy. Jack may have doomed his club by posting this pregame message on X: "See you in 2 weeks, mate", inferring that the Hawks were a lock to beat the Power. Post match and Power victory, PA coach Ken Hinkley set off a firestorm of argy bargy when he quipped back: "No need to book a flight, Jack" while mimicking a flying airplane.

In the other semi final, GWS again succumbed to fourth quarter pressure, giving up a 25-point lead at the last change and losing by 5 points to the Lions, who booked themselves into a 3rd consecutive preliminary final. With a spot in the 2024 GF on offer in finals week 3, Sydney easily dispatched worn out Port Adelaide, while Brisbane surprised Geelong at the MCG, beating the Cats by 10 points to earn a spot in the GF for the second year in a row.

The stage was set for a great battle between 2 interstate clubs who hadn't faced each other in the GF for 125 years! In that match, back in 1899, the then Fitzroy Lions beat the then South Melbourne Swans by 1 point to earn their first premiership. Fast forward a century and a quarter, and the long-awaited rematch between the 2 relocated clubs had their supporters lathered up in a sold-out MCG.

An evenly matched and hotly contested first term saw the Lions creep out to an 8-point lead. Alas, footy fans were not treated to a down-to-the-wire photo finish, with the Lions trampling the Swans for the last 3 quarters and outscoring the Sydneysiders by 52 points. Devastation by the Swans for losing a 4th GF in 11 years was conversely matched by an elated Lions side who claimed their first premiership since 2003. Redemption was also realised for the Brisbane side after agonisingly falling 4 points short to Collingwood only 12 months previous. Lions Will Ashcroft was B.O.G. for the day, taking out the Norm Smith medal.

And just like that, a year on from GF

heartbreak, the Brisbane Lions are 2024 premiers, their 4th gong in 28 years since their merger with The Brisbane Bears.

My final thought to wrap up a stellar 2024 season ... I am sure Sydney and Brisbane footy legend Warwick Capper, with his frosted hair and too short shorts, is, 2 months on, living off condolences from Swans fans and free grog from Lions supporters.

See you in 2025!

- Mick Workman

## The Times They Are a'Changing

For many years, our newsletter has been 8 pages long, with pages 4 and 5 in particular slated for news from Oz and NZ. With changes and enforcement of copyright and concerns about what we can and can't freely use from online sources, we're considering making some changes to the future format of the *Yarn*.

Facebook has already blocked us from posting news links from down under, hence the barebones content these days. And after speaking with several media outlets here and in Australia, the general consensus is that securing copyright permission to run each snippet on pages 4 and 5 is time prohibitive. All we can safely use is the title and the link - no content or images, unless they are our own.

And so after discussions with the Club executive and newsletter editor Charlie Powell, we've decided to make you, the members, the primary focus of the newsletter moving forward.

For the time being, we will continue with 8 pages, and fill up the issue with member photos and stories, local event opportunities, perhaps introduce a marketplace to sell and swap, and recommendations for viewing programs and reading books from down under.

Any questions, feel free to contact us at [info@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:info@downunderclub.mb.ca).

— Jenny Gates

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## 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.



Amur Wagtail



Azur-winged magpie



Eurasian tree sparrow



Hoopoe



Long-tailed shrike



White Chinese goose (knob-head)

## birds i view

by Charlie Powell

### Oriental

Here are some Asian birds I photographed in China 7 years ago. Some have physical similarity to birds more familiar to us - others, in name only.

Below are some Canadian west coast gulls and herons photographed this autumn on Bowen Island by Brian Hydesmith.



White rock pigeon



### Board of Directors

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**Lynley Davidson**

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**Charlie Powell**

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**Catherine Bowering**

Past President:

**Terry Roberts**

This newsletter can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors within the club, from overseas and information services. Layout by [design@hydesmith.com](mailto:design@hydesmith.com)

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