

The Southern Yarn

January-February 2025



NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.



downundercalendar

FEBRUARY

Australia Day and Waitangi Day
Saturday February 1, 5:00 pm
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin St, Wpg

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.

APRIL

ANZAC Day Memorial Service
Saturday April 26,
4:30 pm for a 5 pm start
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin St, Wpg

PLEASE NOTE – we request you arrive between 4:30 and 4:50 pm so we can start promptly at 5 pm. Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service where the younger generation will once again play a part, and we will sing our national anthems. This will be followed by a delicious POTLUCK. Bring a dish to share for the meal – main dish, or veggies, salad or dessert. This has been a particularly important event for our Club for 75 years, so come and be part of it and the social to follow. And yes, the bar will be open.

The 2024 Christmas party brought together many of our team on a wintery evening. More photos with Santa on page 5. See if you can identify all of these people, and be part of our next gathering. Photo: Brian Hydesmith.

An Excellent Christmas Gathering

Thank you to everyone who was able to brave the cold weather and celebrate our club’s Family Christmas Event at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre on Sunday December 8.

Thirty-three of us enjoyed another fun-filled evening of party games and great food. As a group we assembled an amazing potluck dinner – I’m sure everyone found something they enjoyed. (I certainly loved trying the different warm dishes.)

It wasn’t just the games and the food that made the night memorable. While the snow piled up outside, we were inside basking in the warmth of good company and festive cheer. Santa Claus made his annual appearance to drop off a sack-load of presents for the kids, which were well received and really added a touch of magic to an already successful evening.

— Sam Dawson, Social Coordinator
(co-chair with Emma Wakeling)

Land Acknowledgement

The Down Under Club of Winnipeg meets on Treaty 1 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.



find us on facebook or the web
www.downunderclub.mb.ca
email: info@downunderclub.mb.ca

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



So, another new year. A chance for a refresh in how we do things and what we do.

A positive sign already is the addition of the relatively youthful Sam and Emma to the Board, in the role of Social Co-Chairs.

As has been mentioned (p. 6), this newsletter will continue to evolve as we rely more on our members for content and less on copyrighted news.

I hope to set an example in that department. With an upcoming visit down under, I expect to return with a back-pack full of new, original material to share with *Yarn* readers (not to mention the odd jar of Vegemite).

Locally, we're looking forward to experiencing our newly upgraded world-class cricket pitches at Assiniboine Park. That may take the form of a DUCW picnic in the park?

Another highlight of '25 will no doubt be the Club's 75th commemoration of ANZAC Day – quite an achievement!

Read on for some Annual Meeting reports and other Club and member happenings.

Thanks, as always, to all who have contributed to this edition. And to get the year off to a happy start, below is a photo my brother in Perth sent in of a kookaburra family in his backyard – junior is on the ground under the swing.



president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Another New Year's Eve, and another New Year. From my family to yours, we wish you a happy, prosperous and safe New Year.

We were fortunate to have our complete family at home for Christmukkah dinner. (We combine both celebrations these days.) Tyler and Hannah came in from Toronto, as they often do, accompanied by 14-month-old Matilda. They were here for all our family Christmas happenings, including the gift exchange.

We basically have a secret Santa draw, where each person draws another, who indicates on the App what their preferences are

for gift/s, to a modest maximum value. It has been very successful for us, and everyone enjoys the mass openings. This year I selected the putter that will take ten shots off my golf scores. It has to be good – it is painted red in spots.

So Tyler, Hannah and Matilda were here for just 8 days, and with the extra company, and Margaret still getting over a broken right arm, and looking after an active child, my nap deficit grew substantially. But as always, it was great fun, and we always feel lucky to have such a great lot of kids and grandkids.

Stay warm,
— Peter

Did you know? ...

Winnipeg's relatively new conservatory in Assiniboine Park, The Leaf, has a real live Wollemi pine tree! Apparently gifted from Australia, as they are rare and very protected. Since their discovery by a park ranger 30 years ago, the exact whereabouts (somewhere in a canyon in the Blue Mountains, about 5 kms west of Sydney), has to be kept secret to prevent unwanted human interference.



Happy New Year 2025

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Happy New Year to all our Down Under Club Friends. Congratulations again on your 75th Anniversary – an incredible feat in today's age of social media, which seems to keep most people from actually being social. We, too, celebrated a big milestone in 2024 with 20 years in business. An incredible feat considering hardships that have hit our vibrant industry in recent years. Our success in large part is due to friendships and support from organisations and people such as yourselves. We do not take this lightly at all. Thank you to all of you for being a significant part of our success over the last 20 years. From our homes to yours, we wish you all the very best for 2025.

— Jason and the entire
Downunder Travel Team
across Canada.

For more info:
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A classic game of 'two-up' at the Christmas Party gets everyone involved.

The Business of Your Club

Annual Meeting Report

Just for something different, and to save on hall rental, it was decided to hold the 2024 AGM on Friday November 29 at our home instead of at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre. Luckily, we have a ping pong table as our dining room table, so there was room for all.

Peter Munn, Lynley Davidson, Peter Debenham, Charlie Powell, and Margaret Munn all agreed to stay on in their respective positions for another year. Jenny Gates was elected as Membership chair and we are pleased to welcome Sam Dawson and Emma Wakeling as Social Co-Chairs. If you don't know who Sam and Emma are, you will have to come out to the Feb 1, 2025 Australia Day / Waitangi Day celebrations at 5:00 pm and meet them.

This year's cook off is LASAGNA so start perfecting your recipe now. I know I am.

— Margaret Munn, Secretary

Financial Summary Report

Our 2024 financial year resulted in a cash flow deficit of \$166. This follows small annual deficits that we have had over the past 10 years or so.

At October 31, 2024 (our fiscal year-end) we had cash assets of \$11,206 which puts us in a strong position to maintain our goal of breaking-even or having small annual deficits into the future.

— Peter Debenham, Treasurer

Media Communication Report

It has been a big year for media and communications, given the 75th anniversary of the DUCW.

Our newsletter has been profiling the history of the Club in the March/April 2024 to May/June 2025 issues. We sent 20 letters to Prime Ministers, High Commissioners, local government folk and Air Force groups in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. We had an extraordinary dinner to celebrate with past and present members and guests. And we will promote remaining events for the 75th year to which we can invite a number of key people.

Not all planned things happened, in particular the media outreach because there's just wasn't time to do that as well; we weren't able to induct a few significant contributors to the Club's success; and a few other ideas have not come to fruition for one reason or another.

The Southern Yarn is still our main vehicle of outreach for members, and we are toying with the idea of moving to a 6-page format every now and then. This is mostly because of the change in copyright laws that severely restricts what we can post on Facebook, and by extension, in the newsletter.

However, that will allow us to redirect the focus of the website, the newsletter and Facebook back to the members and the Club and what it offers.

Email is another successful outreach tool to let members know about events and activities during the year. And our website has been updated, with some other changes to come.

Looking forward to another excellent year for media and communications in the DUCW.

— Jenny Gates

Newsletter Report

The Southern Yarn newsletter has continued to be published on a bi-monthly basis in 2024.

It has continued as an 8-pager and is emailed to approximately 30 members, as well as government, consular and media contacts and others. Hard copies, printed at Kendrick Printing, are also mailed to many members. Thanks to Jenny and Leon for their part in getting them mailed.

Thank you also to our loyal advertisers: Down Under Travel, Bill Pooley and Kiwi Installations.

A big thank you to Jenny for her significant content contribution; and to Michael Workman for his very knowledgeable AFL reports. Also, Brian Hydesmith again deserves high praise for enhancing and making every issue presentable for printing and posting it on the DUCW website. Judy and Jenny also contribute valuable assistance by proof-reading; and I thank other members and friends who take the time to share articles of interest.

As always, I encourage any other member to give some thought to what he or she might contribute, either as a regular feature, or just now and then. This is more important going forward, as we find ourselves having to be cautious of copyright infringement with any articles from the web.

— Charlie Powell, Editor

If you still need to pay your DUCW membership dues ...

You can pay your annual membership dues by **e-transfer** using the Club email – info@downunderclub.mb.ca – and it will go directly into our RBC account.

Alternatively, you can pay by cheque to our mailing address – DUCW, Stn Main PO Box 1655, Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z6 – and it will be deposited as soon as we receive it.

Annual membership dues are \$30 for a family/couple, or \$20 for an individual.

Any additional info is on our website at <https://downunderclub.mb.ca/membership/>.

And if you have any questions, or are unsure if you still need to pay your dues, please email Jenny at info@downunderclub.mb.ca or phone 204-228-9959.

Thank you!





**PREMIER
OF MANITOBA**

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

November 26, 2024

Peter Munn, President
Jenny Gates, Media & Communications
The Down Under Club of Winnipeg Inc.
PO Box 1655 Stn Main
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2Z6

Dear Peter and Jenny,

On behalf of the Manitoba Government, I want to congratulate the Down Under Club of Winnipeg on your 75th anniversary.

Our province is strongest when Manitobans connect with their cultures and heritage to form community and share their traditions with others. By providing a way for Australian and New Zealander Manitobans to gather, the Down Under Club of Winnipeg is an important part of this. And as a volunteer-run organization, your success represents a significant commitment. While you represent communities from across the world, this dedication is a deeply Manitoban trait and a big part of what makes our province such an amazing place to live.

Thank you for the work you do to support Australian and New Zealander communities here in Manitoba. Happy 75th anniversary!

Miigwech,

The Honourable Wab Kinew
Premier of Manitoba

We also received letters from **Mayor Scott Gillingham**, offering his congratulations and his hope to attend a future event, and **Stephen Hayter, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum**. Stephen wrote:

“The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan saw 9,606 aircrew from Australia and 7,002 from New Zealand, the biggest participation

after Canada and the UK. The museum pays tribute to the Australians and New Zealanders who died near or on Canadian soil during WWII, with their names etched on our RCAF WWII Memorial. If the museum could partner with you to promote this important contribution please reach out, we would be happy to do so.”

The DUCW executive is looking into both these opportunities.



Blaise Debenham



Charlie Worton



Claire Somers



Owen Davidson



Clyde Debenham



Isabella Walton



Graham Somers



Peter Debenham

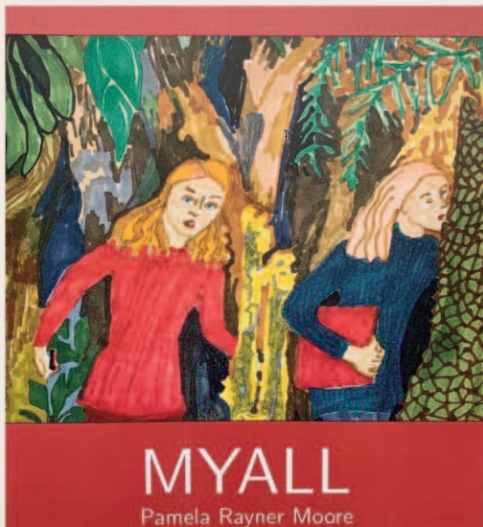


Our 75th year continues to entertain all our members. When Santa stopped by our annual family Christmas party, he delighted the youngest members with gifts, and even some of our more mature (?) members got in on the fun. Upcoming events being planned include afternoon tea, breakfast, golf tournament, pool party, and a BBQ in the park.

Meadowood Framing & Art Centre

6 -200 Meadowood Drive

Book Launch and Art Show by Pamela Rayner Moore



Art show on until February 27, 2025
Monday - Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM
pamelaraynermooremyall.ca

75years&counting

Getting the word out ...

Our bi-monthly newsletter, *The Southern Yarn*, is a first-class publication that is mailed and emailed to almost 100 members across Canada. Past members and other interested folk around the world also receive emailed copies of the *Yarn* so they can stay connected.

The newsletter began around 30 years ago as *The Down Under Club News* before adopting its long-standing name, *The Southern Yarn*. There have been three editors — Jacqueline Cassel-Cramer, Jenny Gates, and Charlie Powell. Brian Hydesmith has designed the newsletter for more than 25 years. With help along the way from Gordon Keatch and a cast of regular and occasional contributors, *The Southern Yarn* is considered by many to be the glue that holds the Club together.

It contains a wide variety of articles, including information on upcoming events, reports on past events, member updates and photos, and several columns over the years.

One of our most popular columns was “Getting to Know ...”. From 2003 to 2012, 150 members were profiled by Gordon Keatch, who took up the challenge to showcase our membership until “... having reached my ‘retirement’ age of 90, I have decided to hang up my pen!”

Another favourite was Murray Burt’s “Commonwealth Corner” (2010-2020) that shared important news and updates on the goings on in the Commonwealth around the world.

Our current columns are “Birds I View” in which Charlie Powell shares information and photos of birds from here and elsewhere, and “AFL Season Update” by Mick Workman that keeps us up-to-date on the Australian Football League down under. Both these columns add story, colour and fun to the *Yarn*.

Longtime advertisers in recent years are our partners at Downunder Travel (Jason Webb) and supporters Kiwi Installations (Terry Roberts) and Mobile Law Office (Bill Pooley), and there were many others along the way. Please continue to support our advertisers for your travel, installation and legal needs.

In late 2018, the newsletter switched to a bimonthly publication, and although currently still 8 pages, don’t be surprised if occasionally you receive a 6-page issue.

This is largely due to changes in copyright laws, greater vigilance of unauthorised usage, and social media banning news link from



Norm Griffiths and Gordon Keatch enjoyed getting together and preparing *The Southern Yarn* newsletter for mailing. It is looked forward to by postal recipients on its signature yellow paper, and in the full colour online format. Photo from 2016 by Jenny Gates.

being shared in Canada. As a result, we are restricted in our ability to run Oz and NZ news articles in the newsletter, and only allowed to post headlines on Facebook. Although disappointing, it does allow us to bring the focus back to you, the members, and everything that our club offers all of us.

There are several other vehicles for you to use, contribute to, and explore:

www.downunderclub.mb.ca — our website is a mine of information for members and visitors to and through Manitoba

info@downunderclub.mb.ca — our email address is widely used by members and others who have questions or suggestions, or simply want to get in contact with us

www.facebook.com/aussieskiwis **canucks** — because our Facebook page now

focuses on Club events and activities, we welcome your photos, stories, and other contributions

www.youtube.com/@downunderclubofwinnipeg — currently we have three videos, all from our 2020 Bushfire Fundraiser, and we hope to add a few more, as well as club photos from over the years for you to reminisce and enjoy.

As always, you are welcome to submit stories, photos, updates, information about events in which you are involved, and any other contributions of interest to members, as well as ideas to improve the ways we get the word out.

Next issue: **Members**

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DUCW member Tess Shelton lives out in British Columbia, but is still going strong at age 99. Good on you, Tess, and wishing you and your family a very happy new year. Hugs from us all! Photo supplied.



Great grey owl by Charlie Powell



Santa greeting kids and families at Bulli Beach, NSW, Australia. Photo: Janet Williams.

Aviation history ...

CBC Radio, Winnipeg, 15th Dec, 2024 aired their regular interview with Gordon Goldsborough of the Manitoba Historical Society. His topic was "A special issue of Prairie History on the history of prairie aviation for the 50th anniversary of the Royal Aviation Museum and 100th anniversary of the Royal Canada Air Force". You can access the audio and other links here: <https://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/abandoned.shtml>

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This newsletter can be downloaded in PDF format from the website. Thank you to all of our contributors in the club and beyond, locally and from overseas. Layout by design@hydsmith.com

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www.downunderclub.mb.ca

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birds i view

by Charlie Powell

Hmm, very puzzling

Here's a jigsaw puzzle featuring a collection of North American birds that we completed recently. [If you only receive *The Yarn* as the hard-copy printed version, then I recommend you take a look at the COLOUR original online at www.downunderclub.mb.ca] You will notice how cleverly it has been composed – to span the four seasons. It's worth framing, I reckon! Unfortunately, it did not come with a list of characters. Some are easily recognisable, and after some research on the others, here's our roll-call, in no particular order – see if you can find them.

Blue jay
Northern cardinal
Scarlet tanager
Black-capped chickadee
White-breasted nuthatch
Canada goose
American woodcock
Evening grosbeak
Baltimore oriole
Dark-eyed junco
Olive-sided flycatcher
Red-winged blackbird
Downy woodpecker
Great blue heron
Eastern bluebird

Cedar waxwing
Indigo bunting
Red-tailed hawk
Cerulean warbler
American redstart
Tree swallow
Canada warbler
Carolina wren
Song sparrow
Tufted titmouse
American goldfinch (female).

And can you see the animal that is not a bird?