downundercalendar

APRIL

ANZAC Day Remembrance Service Saturday, April 26 4:30 pm for 5 pm start Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin Street

PLEASE NOTE – arrival prior to 5 pm is requested so we can have everyone seated in time for the formal remembrance parade and official formalities that will start promply at 5 pm.

Make a date to commemorate ANZAC Day with a memorial service in which our younger members will play a significant part. There will also singing of our national anthems, followed by a delicious POTLUCK. 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. Bring a dish to share for the meal – i.e., main, salad, dessert – and, don't forget, the bar will be open.

And stay tuned for further details...

MAY

- A Breakfast

JULY

- Pool Party

AUGUST

– Golf Tournament

SEPTEMBER

Down Under Club of Winnipeg - 75th Anniversary BBQ, 11am – 3pm, Sun Sep 21 2025, Assiniboine Park

OCTOBER -

Not-so-Formal Dinner



How many people you can identify? Then plan to be part of our next gathering. Photos: Brian Hydesmith.

An Excellent Australia Day / Waitangi Day Gathering

We missed those of you who were unable to attend this event, but the relatively small and vocal gathering of 18 souls, including four new faces accompanying the Hydesmiths, engaged in a lot of group conversations. Big thanks to Sam and Emma who designed a great NZ and AUS quiz, and, of course, a traditional game of

Two-Up rounded off the evening and all lasagnas were winners.

Our President's concerns of setting off all the alarms after unlocking the building for the first time turned out to be unfounded. Thank you, Charlie, for your fine training.

— Peter Munn





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



Visits "back home" are always worthwhile. Of course, catching up with family and friends is the highlight. Our recent trip was no exception, and hopefully the next one will satisfy other friends! But there are also the other benefits – the re-immersion in the Australia-ness – the bush – the wildlife – the heat – the beaches – historical places. As mentioned in the Jan-Feb issue, I have brought some of that back to share in this and future Yarns.

Thank you to Peter, Jenny, Michael, Brian, Lucia, Penny, Jude and all other contributors for this issue!

har Ce..

In Flanders fields poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place; and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the dead. Short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved, and were loved, and now we lie in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe: to you from failing hands we throw the torch: be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders fields.

- By Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, WWI



Albury War Memorial. Photo by C. Powell

president's ramblings

Hello again from our household to yours.

To say this has been an eventful year would be an understatement. Weather worldwide is topsy turvy compared to the last 50 years, and after years of bushfires across Australia, now Queensland and New South Wales are dealing with the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Alfred, which dumped enormous amounts of rain, and created flooding havoc.

And here in Canada, we are about to deal with the effects of the US's implementation of excessive tariffs on many Canadian exports. The well-oiled, reliable and highly efficient supply chain between us, Mexico, and the USA is about to be torn apart, creating havoc for all of us. As the character Manuel would say to hotel owner Basil Fawlty (played by John Cleese) whenever things went awry in the British classic Fawlty Towers, "It's crazy, Mr. Fawlty, it's crazy."

And now for something completely different... I may have spoken about a role I play when requested, as a 'Standardized Patient'. The University of Manitoba Medical Faculty runs this program to help train students in their diagnostic skills. Sometimes I have to act as a patient with certain symptoms, but most often now I lie back on a hospital bed, and students wield an ultrasound

device loaded with great quantities of Gel, working on attaining an excellent image of all the bodily bits we have.

Today, the first 4 students could not find a heart in me. Does that mean I am heartless?

The interesting fact about today was that all students were overseas qualified doctors, and they are spending about a year becoming familiar with Canadian standards of care, prior to the exams that will allow them to be recognized as physicians in Canada. They are recruited, and most are now (semi) practising in larger communities outside Winnipeg. So our health care system is working hard to get physicians where they are needed - in rural Manitoba. I spoke to quite a few of the doctors, asking about their countries, and where they were now based. Each of them was interesting and articulate, and it made my day that I could in some way help these people support the underserved communities outside of Winnipeg. And every one of them knew the distance between Winnipeg and every community in Manitoba that had a hospital. — *Peter*



SAIL AWAY CRUISES-

Hi DUCW friends. I would like to introduce you to my new company Sail Away Cruises. This new company will have cutting-edge technology for our clients to search and book directly through our website, for both ocean cruises & river cruises globally. When our consumer site is up and running in a couple of months, I will let you know so you can take a look. In the meantime, we do have our internal systems ready to take enquiries for your cruises.

We also have Cruise Specialists behind the scenes who can answer any questions you have. If you are a cruiser or want to try cruising, consider giving us a go.

We have been friends with the DUCW for more than 20 years, and we would appreciate your support. We are willing to extend a special thank you by way of a 5% Discount on any cruises you book through our new

Thank you, Jason

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Members Page

Your stories and photos from here, there, and everywhere



A proud moment for Jude

Congratulations to DUCW member **Jude McCudden** on receiving her Canadian citizenship in early January. The ceremony was held at the beautiful heritage VIA Rail Station in Winnipeg, and in addition to Jude, 65 people attended from all over the world.

In Jude's words:

"I sat next to Usef from Morocco and Vee from Vietnam. It was lovely to see whole families from Africa, India, Arabic countries, and one lady from the Ukraine who I congratulated and we hugged.

"For me it's been a long process from 2016 to permanent residency to citizenship – at one time, they were a year and a half behind with processing applications. Eventually, I used an Immigration lawyer, Carolina Fridman, who was not cheap, but just so supportive and professional. She came from Argentina over 25 years ago and has quite an active firm of lawyers, who all seem to be, at one time, immigrants themselves.

"The presiding judge at the ceremony was her honour Suzanne Carrière, the first Métis judge in Canada, who spoke with such warmth and conviction.

"I now have dual citizenship which is important to me."



DUCW members and friends Penny ... and Lucia Barron met up in Wellington, New Zealand, over coffee and a treat.

Friends in Wellington

As many of you know, Penny (and son Sam) moved to Wellington a few months back, and Lucia spends time there every year visiting family and friends, but it was still quite the moment to see the two of them there together.

According to Penny, it was "... the most wonderful experience of connecting" and the two friends "... marvelled over the fact that both of us Kiwis met in Winnipeg via the DUCW, and now have had the opportunity to reconnect halfway around the world in my new home of Wellington, on a classic blustery windy day in Wellington! We chatted about the importance of keeping connected with family – and friends – no matter where you are in the world."

Here's to that sentiment, and thanks to you both for vicariously sharing your time with all of us.





Iconic buns

Thunder Bay, Ontario, is famous for the Persian – a sort of cinnamon roll (but made with egg) and coated with pink (raspberry?) icing. The story is that General John "Black Jack" Pershing, commander of the American forces on the Western Front during the WWI, happened to visit Art Bennett's bakery in the 1940s and inspired the name.

Meanwhile, half a world away, South Australia has the Kitchener bun. It started life as a *Berliner* until WWI led to anti-German feelings. So, the name was changed to *Kitchener*, in honour of British Field Marshal Lord Kitchener. It features raspberry jam filling and lots of cream.

And until 1916, the Canadian city of Kitchener was known as Berlin, Ontario.





Lake Boga silo art

Lake Boga is a town along the Murray River, in the Mallee region of north-west Victoria (Australia). As you drive through, you can't miss some striking silo art. The interpretive sign gives the artist's name as Tim Bowtell and relates the story of George Urquhart "Scotty" Allan. Born in Scotland in 1900, Scotty was a WWI fighter pilot, a pioneer of commercial aviation, Squadron Commander in the RAAF and then Deputy General Manager of Qantas before retiring in 1961. Scotty was co-pilot of the first all-Australian airmail flight to England on the Empire Flying Boat just before WWII.

Known for his aviation skills and knowledge of seaplanes, Scotty was also well known for his pioneering flights with Charles Kingsford Smith. He was one of the Commanding Officers in charge of the No 1 Flying Boat Repair Depot at Lake Boga during WWII.

Bush yarn ...

The shearer had tickets on himself as a Bible scholar and was always boasting that he could recite, word perfect, the Lord's Prayer. One of his fellow workers, tired of the continual boasting, bet him ten dollars he didn't know it.

T'll show you,' he replied and off he went: 'Here with a loaf of bread beneath the bough, a flask of wine, a book of verse and thou beside me singing in the wilderness.'

His mate looked on in amazement as he handed over the ten dollars. 'I could have sworn he didn't know it.'

[Source: *Classic Bush Yarns*, by Warren Fahey; Harper Collins Publishers, 2001]



RAAF memorial north Queensland

Right there between the Esplanade and the shoreline stands a towering memorial erected in 1976, Cairns' centenary year. It was unveiled in the same year by His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Air Marshal Sir Colin Hannah, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., and is in honour of the part played by the RAAF's Catalina Flying Boats and their crews who were based in Cairns during WWII.

Since then, memorial plaques have been attached listing the names of crew members who lost their lives during the defence of Australia. The most recent was unveiled during a ceremony in 2023, after the crash site was finally discovered on Mindoro Island in the Philippines.

He said what?!

Do you remember the famous statement by the Prime Minister of New Zealand Rob Muldoon in the 1980s commenting about the increasing exodus of New Zealanders leaving the country to work in Australia? It was "New Zealanders who leave for Australia raise the IQ of both countries."

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Test your Down Under trivia knowledge

Australia Trivia Questions

- 1. What unique marsupial found in Australia has a backward-facing pouch to protect its young from dirt and debris?
- 2. Which Australian athlete has become part of Australian vernacular with their last name being understood to mean, triumphing unexpectedly in a sporting event, especially due to luck or the misfortune of others e.g., "Doing a ____" or "To do a ____".
- 3. Which Australian Prime Minister has a Swimming Centre in Melbourne, named in their honour?
- 4. In which year was the Australian army defeated in The Great Emu War?
- 5. Which famous Australian landmark, located in Queensland, is considered one of the world's oldest living rainforests and is also a UNESCO World Heritage site?
- 6. Which Australian actor starred in the movie *The Wolverine* and played the character Wolverine in the *X-Men* series?
- 7. Which Australian island, located off the southeastern coast, is known for its conservation efforts and the introduction of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition?
- 8. Which Australian town hosts the large radio telescope that was used to communicate with Apollo 11 in 1969?
- 9. In which year did the Australian men's football team (the Socceroos) first qualify for the FIFA World Cup?
- 10. Who was the first Indigenous Australian to be elected to the Australian Parliament?
- 11. Which Australian country singer, known for songs like "The Horses," became an international star in the 1990s?
- 12. What is the name of the famous Australian landmark that was designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon?
- 13. In which year did women first gain the right to vote in elections held in South Australia?
- 14. Australia is the world's largest producer of which gemstone?
- 15. What animal is featured on the Australian 20-cent coin?

New Zealand Trivia Questions

- 1. The official New Zealand coat of arms includes a Māori Chieftain and a European woman. What colour is the tā moko (permanent face marking) and the earring on the Chieftain?
- 2. The second largest city on the South Island of New Zealand after Christchurch, Dunedin takes its name from the Gaelic for which British city?
- 3. What are the two words inscribed on the Victoria Cross, which is the highest award for military bravery given to soldiers from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other Commonwealth countries?
- 4. Before starring on television shows including *Battlestar Galactica*, *Spartacus: Blood and Sand*, and *My Life Is Murder*, New Zealander Lucy Lawless portrayed what iconic warrior on her namesake fantasy adventure series airing from 1995–2001?
- 5. The New Zealand women's rugby team is called the _____?
- 6. A mere 1,000 years ago, which now extinct giant flightless birds inhabited the islands of New Zealand?
- 7. Which New Zealand film maker and screenwriter won an Oscar for Best Director in 2003?

- 8. What synthetic chemical element, atomic number 104, is named after a famous New Zealand physicist?
- 9. Who was skipper of the Team New Zealand yacht known as Black Magic in the 1995 America's Cup?
- 10. New Zealand lies on the boundary of what two tectonic plates?
- 11. Auckland City sits on a field of volcanoes all thought to be extinct or dormant. How many volcanoes are there in Auckland?
- 12. What street holds the record for being the steepest in the world?
- 13. First created in 1907 combining a fruit juice and carbonated mineral water, what is the official name of the popular L&P drink manufactured in New Zealand and owned by Coca-Cola?
- 14. For Captain James Cook's second voyage, he sailed on HMS *Resolution*. What was the name of the accompanying ship?
- 15. What must you do before eating a pie?

This trivia quiz challenged those who attended the February 1 club social gathering. **THE ANSWERS** can be found on our web page, so you'll need to connect with us online at **down underclub.mb.ca** to see how you fared!

Corner Store

DUCW member items for sale, swap or search

MUSIC FOR SALE

Interested in some classic downunder music? **Lori Blande** has several CDs for sale, all hardly used and no scratches. Whole collection for \$25 or best offer.

To purchase or for more information, contact Lori at lblande@mymts.net.

FOLK:

John Williamson — The Platinum Collection

THE DUSTY COLLECTION

Slim Dusty — Essentially Australian

Slim Dusty — Songs in the Saddle

Slim Dusty — Songs of Australia

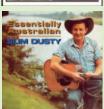
INDIGENOUS

Spirit Alive — Kristan Benton

Corroboree — Traditional Aboriginal Song and Dance

To submit items to **The Corner Store**, email info@downunderclub.mb.ca .







75years&counting



Clockwise from top left: 1997 Downunders indoor cricket champions; 2008 formal dinner diners; 2019 High Tea Bakery; 2019 Christmas Party.

Our Members

Where would we be without you, our members!? Since the very beginning, you have been the lifeblood of our Club, and your willingness to engage and support each other and our events and activities is what has allowed us to exist for 75 years.

In the early days, members opened their homes to each other for social gatherings and meetings, and participated in all manner of volunteer and formal activities that helped raise the profile of the DUCW in the local community. That has continued through to today for BBQs, pool parties, movie nights, and to welcome back and honour current and past members.

Over the years, members have volunteered to help raise money for charitable causes and participated in charitable events – Dragon Boat races, Folklorama, carving Christmas ornaments for kids, and both the Christchurch earthquake and Australian bushfires. And here are a few other events and activities in which DUCW members actively participated, some of which put them in the community spotlight and reported on in the *Yarn*.

For example, Lynley Davidson and Thibaut Lauwers were Olympic Torch Bearers in Manitoba (2010). Up From Down Under, with

Jenny Gates and Gerry Gordon, made their sixth and final appearance at the Australia/New Zealand Pavilion of the Swan River Folk Fest (2015). Members submitted their best shots to our photo contest (2015), with several chosen for greeting cards that are still being sent to members as necessary. Touch Rugby came to town (2016) thanks to Kiwi Caleb Stick, who was also instrumental in bringing several Haka Rugby Camps to town in recent years. The Winnipeg Bears Australian Football Club arrived (2017) thanks to member Allan Sharman, but unfortunately folded a few years back.

Alanna Hinrichsen was inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame (2016), and one of the biggest moments in 2018 was when Gordon Keatch and two friends got stuck in the elevator at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre. All three joked their way through the seemingly long wait for firefighters and a paramedic to ensure their safe exit.

Judy Powell and the Trinity Sew and Sews were featured on CTV's Community Connections about their passion for quilting and using that passion to help others in need (2019), and one of Judy's creations was later included in a travelling exhibition. Penny Hooper's floral design work was featured twice in the WAG's Art in Bloom exhibition

(2022, 2024), and many of us attended Commonwealth events organised by the inimitable pairing of **Betsy and Murray Burt.** In 2021, several of us met with DUCW member **Dr Barry Mills** and daughter **Cressida** to dedicate a new plaque in honour of their son and brother, **Damian**. The plaque is on a memorial bench outside the clubhouse of the Manitoba Cricket Association in Assiniboine Park

In 2007, we awarded DUCW Life Memberships, with the first recipients Ken and Lea Clark, Ken and Marg Coad, Al and Millie Hansen, Terry Ryan and Faith Batt-Ryan, and Peter and Ruth Thomas. Subsequent awardees were Murray and Betsy Burt and Norm and Debbie Griffiths.

And there would never have been any Folklorama pavilions if not for **Sue Gel** and so many others who come up with the idea to hold a very successful fundraiser event that led to the first pavilion being staged in 1993.

Indeed, we have lost many members over the years, but we were proud to honour them all at the 75th anniversary dinner in October 2024.

These are but a handful of moments initiated by or that benefitted from the participation of you, our members, and as long as you continue to support the DUCW, we will be here to help you if and when needed.

Next Issue – 75 Years and Still Going Strong



AFLreport

The Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) is a sports stadium located in Yarra Park, Melbourne, Victoria. The capacity is more than 100,000. Photo provided.

G'day to all AFL fans in the northern hemisphere who have endured yet another winter in which the phrase "Why do we live here" is a daily question on our continually chapping lips. THE FOOTY IS BACK! And with it my quarterly insights in all things AFL.

Welcome to the 2025 Australian Rules Football Season. Of the 18 teams that enter the fall with finals and grand final aspirations, only two will win the right to fight for the game's ultimate prize. So let's consider who is predicted to be contenders and pretenders.

Many have the Lions saluting again in 2025, only because these predictors lack the imagination necessary to understand the work, magic, luck, and the favour of the footy gods that goes into winning a flag. Last final's run saw GWS completely capitulate in not one, but two home finals in which they were up by substantial margins before surrendering 6 goals in each of the final terms.

Brisbane successfully ran over the top of the so-called Giants in the second of these finals, and the rest was history. Hawthorn's unlikely deep finals run in 2024 have many punters backing them to not only make finals, but be a Top 4 contender. Carlton and Collingwood, who finished the 2024 home and away season on the same amount of premiership points and 8th and 9th respectively on the ladder, are also figured to make some noise and claim a Top 8 spot.

Perennial finals contenders Geelong are predicted to be there as well, with Fremantle, St. Kilda, Western, Sydney, Gold Coast, Port Adelaide, Greater Western Sydney and Melbourne all legitimate contenders who, with some luck, will all make this footy season another to remember.

Since the bottom teams hardly get a mention, let's have a quick word about the rebuilders of the competition. The Richmond Tigers, who are now well into a youth movement having had a number of premiership stars retire or leave via trade/free agency, have been tipped to be this year's wooden spooners and may not even win one game. That was absolutely turned on its head as the Tigers have just come from the clouds after being 41 points down to kick away to a historic round 1 win [by 13 points] over the Carlton Blues who [do we dare say it] will be blue as they leave the MCG post game.

We will also see what the West Coast Eagles have to offer up this year. Since stealing the 2018 premiership by 5 points from the Collingwood Magpies on a non-called shepherd that allowed Don Shead to kick the winning goal, the Eagles have since gone 47-88. This includes 10 wins and a whopping 58 losses in the past three years.

Lastly [no pun intended], let's look at North Melbourne who have not fared much better. The Kangas may have the second-best young gun in the comp with Harry Sheezel [behind Magpies Macedonian Marvel 2.0 Nick Daicos], but he will need help from all points on the compass if North are to manage double digit wins this year.

As always, 18 teams start out in first or last place, depending if you are a glass half full or glass half empty supporter, and two teams will be there on Saturday September 28 to compete for the games ultimate prize – the 2025 Premiership Cup.

This Pie nuffy has Collingwood defeating whoever is unlucky enough to stand against the Magpie army on that one day in September, and claim their record-breaking 17th flag!

— Michael J. 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 to 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 slimmed down content in some issues. 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 (p. 3), local event opportunities, and recommendations for viewing programs and reading books from down under. And in this issue we introduced the Corner Store (p. 5) to sell and swap member items.

Any questions, feel free to contact us at info@downunderclub.mb.ca.

— Jenny Gates



Restless Flycatcher - Photos by Charlie Powell.

birds i view

by Charlie Powell

Restless Flycatcher

The above photos were taken at friends' bird-friendly yard near Murgon, Queensland. When I looked up the bird book, the restless flycatcher was shown without the buff breast and with the typical crest – so, I put this specimen down to seasonal variation.

They are found down Australia's east and around to Adelaide, and over in the southwest. The diet is mostly insects, centipedes and spiders – definitely much more than just restless flies. They can be seen hovering, with head and tail down, while picking their meal off the tree canopy.

The common name is *scissors grinder* due to the grinding sound it makes.

Australia has many other flycatchers, for example, the satin, monarch, pied, leaden, broad-billed, paper-bark and shining. As with all insectivores, these birds play their important role in nature's balance and they deserve protection (e.g., from feral cats) and encouragement (e.g., with a fresh water supply). When insect populations get too numerous they can have a negative impact on crops, including backyard vegetable gardens.



A very good ski season has drawn to a close here. Keen skiers managed to enjoy many cross country trails and even some hills throughout the province. Hydesmith photos.



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@hydesmith.com

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Mountain

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