

The Southern Yarn

July – August 2026

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

JULY

Winnipeg Fringe Festival
July 15 – 26, Various locations

Details on p.3.

Pool Party

Sunday, 26th July – 3:30 pm
57 D'Arcy Drive, south Wpg

Lynley and family have offered their pool and backyard again for this eagerly anticipated summer social occasion for our members and families. In addition to the swimming and socialising, there will be a backyard barbecue. The Club will provide the burgers, hotdogs and buns. Members attending are asked to bring their own drinks, and an accompanying dish to share – salad, pasta or desserts. Let Lynley know (see below) ages of children attending, so quantities of burgers, etc., can be calculated. **Remember to RSVP!** If you plan to attend, please call Lynley at 204-269-1510, leave a voicemail, or by email to social@downunderclub.mb.ca

AUGUST

Annual DUCW Golf Tournament
Saturday, 22nd August – noon
The Players, 2695 Inkster Blvd.

This 9-hole game will again be "Best Ball" where you are part of a team of four, and you all hit your next shots from the best positioned ball in your group. It is a great format for social golf, and for occasional players, because even if your shot isn't great, you simply pick up your ball and play from your team's best position. The course has a nice open-air area attached to the restaurant, overlooking their man-made lake, and we gather after the game for results, a beverage, and perhaps a burger. It is a casual event and a guaranteed good time. **Call Peter Munn at 204 237-1805** to let him know and get on a team. Regulars and players of all skill levels are welcome! INVITE A FRIEND!

AUTUMN

Not-so-Formal Dinner
24th October

Details in the Sept/Oct Yarn.



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

Russ Hood: Farewell Friend

Long-time DUCW member Russ Hood passed away peacefully on Tuesday June 16, finally reuniting with his wife Joy, the love of his life, who predeceased him.

Born in Sydney, Australia, Russ and Joy embarked on a great adventure with their six-month-old son, David, and headed to Canada. After arriving in Vancouver, they made their way to Winnipeg where they built a life filled with family, friendship and community.

Fortunately, the Hood family soon found their way to the Down Under Club. Although health issues meant we didn't see as much of them in the past few years, their daughter Lynette donated some of her beautiful art that significantly contributed to the success of our Winnipeg Fundraiser for the Australian Bushfires in February 2020.

As his obituary reads in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, "Russ will be deeply missed but



never forgotten. His memory will live on in the hearts of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him."

And the members and executive of the DUCW count ourselves among those who had the privilege of knowing both Russ and Joy.



Vale Sam Neill

Acclaimed New Zealand actor and businessman Sam Neill died suddenly in Sydney on July 13, 2026. Aged 78, the veteran of films – *Dead Calm*, *The Piano*, *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* and *Jurassic Park* – and television – *The Sullivans*, *The Tudors* and *Peaky Blinders* – Neill not only earned accolades for his acting, but was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (1991), Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (2007), and earned an honorary Doctor of Letters degree (University of Canterbury, 2002). He also owned a winery called Two Paddocks in the south island of New Zealand.

On a personal note, I was fortunate to be an extra with Sam in the movie *Framed* (2002) when it was filmed in Winnipeg. – Charlie Powell

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.

editorially yours

Charlie Powell



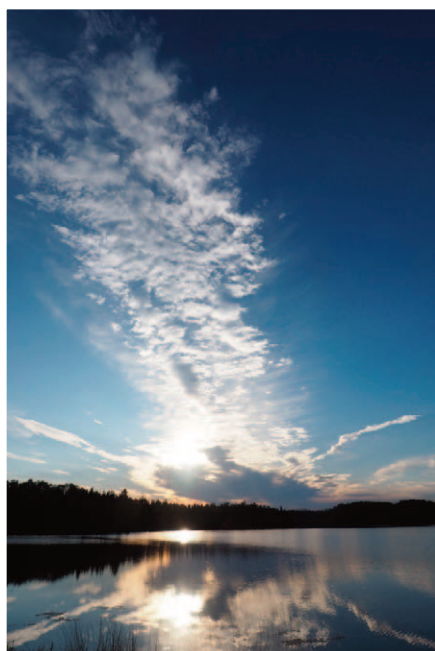
In this issue you will see a new columnist (p.4) new to the *Yarn*, but certainly not new to the local scene around Manitoba. **Dwight MacAulay** is a very civic, community and culturally minded citizen who hopefully you will get to know even better over future *Yarns*.

Otherwise, we have the usual eclectic mix of news, views and things that amuse, including President Peter's playful use of Aussie lingo.

We're keeping it to just 6 pages this time because it's summer here in Winnipeg and, despite daylight saving, there just aren't enough hours to make up for the other 6 months of you-know-what.

Thank you to all our many contributors!

Team ALL Nations U20 comprises Indigenous athletes and coaches from across Canada. And the Team is travelling to Taurangi, New Zealand, to compete in the All Nations U20 Volleyball Series. The international tournament runs from July 9 – 19, 2026, and features cultural and athletic exchanges against Aotearoa Māori Poiréwa (New Zealand Māori Volleyball).



July sunrise over Mantario Lake in Whiteshell Provincial Park's Wilderness Zone. Photo by Brian Hydesmith

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



I had a pleasant conversation with a friend the other day, and he enquired about a small South Australian town that had been mentioned in a news article. Quick to offer him an answer, I said it was, "Way out in the mulga." Surprisingly, that didn't help him at all. So, I explained to him that it meant it was a "long way from home", even a "long way from anywhere".

And that got me thinking about other Australian descriptions I could have used to clarify how remote that little town was.

If it was "just around the corner", I could have said it was "within cooee". But no, this

place was "out in the sticks". "A long way from home." "A long way from anywhere." Could even be said to be "out in the Mulga", which I had initially said. But it was farther than that.

"Out in the whoop-whoops" was getting closer to describing how far away it was. Maybe "in the middle of nowhere"? Or "beyond the black stump"? No, even farther. Maybe "back of Bourke". And then it came to me. It had to be in the "back of beyond".

My friend thanked me for the lesson in Advanced Australian Distance Measurement, part of the old imperial system.

And I smiled because I was glad to help.

— Peter

Visiting The Leaf

On a recent visit to The Leaf, I was surprised to learn there are several Australian – and also some New Zealand – plants on display in the Mediterranean Biome. A few of them I had seen on previous visits – wattle, bottlebrush – but I didn't know there were any Wollemi. In fact, one of the volunteers told me there were several of them, so I went looking.

As I was looking through that Biome, I also came across Lynley Davidson's placard with her photo and a write-up about her memories from gardens back in NZ. You can see that for yourself in the welcoming seating area.

Anyway, just beyond that, I found the Wollemi, and there are indeed 3 or 4 of them. They look very happy living so far from home, and definitely worth a visit.

— Jenny Gates

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Australia and New Zealand at the Winnipeg Fringe 2026

This year's Winnipeg Fringe runs from Wednesday July 15 to Sunday July 26 in various downtown locations and beyond. And this year, there are 3 performers from Australia and 1 performer from New Zealand. Their info is below.

A big thank you to the team at this year's Fringe for once again providing us with info about shows from both our home countries. For more info and more shows, visit <https://www.winnipegfringe.com>

Tim Motley (Adelaide) – Dirk Darrow: Magic of Future Past

Rated PG – timmotley.com

Thur 16 – 7:30 pm, Fri 17 – 6:30 pm,
Sat 18 – 6:30 pm, Sun 19 – 6:30 pm,
Mon 20 – 7:30 pm, Tues 21 – 7:30 pm,
Thur 23 – 7:30 pm, Fri 24 – 6:30 pm,
Sat 25 – 6:30 pm, Sun 26th – 3:00 pm

21-time Fringe Fest Award Winner Tim Motley presents this gritty 1930's film-noir retro that collides with futuristic sci-fi in a hilarious time-travelling stage magic spectacle. Experience mind-reading revelations that will shatter your reality and propel you Back To The Future.

Solid State Circus (Australia) – Fakespeare

Rated G – Play-Comedy

Wed 15 – 7:45 pm, Fri 17 – 2:30 pm,
Sat 18 – 12:45 pm, Tues 21 – 10:00 pm,
Wed 22 – 2:45 pm, Thur 23 – 5:00 pm,
Sat 25 – 6:00 pm, Sun 26 – 1:30 pm

Patrick Hercamp performs the Bard's work like you've never seen it before. This award-winning comedian condenses Shakespeare's best-loved tragedies, characters and iconic moments into a blisteringly funny vaudeville romp where the audience chooses which play is performed. This show is for Shakespeare fans and total illiterates.

2Hoots Productions (Adelaide) – Jon Bennett

Rated M – jonbennettcomedy.com

Thur 16 – 5:00 pm, Fri 17 – 5:00 pm,
Sat 18 – 1:30 pm, Sun 19 – 3:15 pm,
Mon 20 – 6:45 pm, Tue 21 – 8:30 pm,
Wed 22 – 5:00 pm, Thur 23 – 6:45 pm,
Fri 24 – 5:00 pm, Sat 25 – 1:30 pm,
Sun 26 – 4:15 pm

Renowned comedian Jon Bennett tells of his chaotic attempt to navigate life when the pandemic stranded him in the US. Eventually forced back to rural Australia, Jon found himself living once again with his conservative family. After two years trapped at home, he returned to the US ... only to be arrested on arrival.



Matthew Harvey (Auckland) – Promise & Promiscuity: A New Musical by Jane Austen & Penny Ashton

hotpink.co.nz/promise-and-promiscuity –

Rated PG

Wed 15 – 7:45 pm, Fri 17 – 2:30 pm,
Sat 18 – 12:45 pm, Tue 21 – 8:30 pm,
Wed 22 – 4:15 pm, Thur 23 – 2:45 pm,
Sat 25 – 10:15 pm, Sun 26 – 1:00 pm

Ashton's beloved Austen musical returns as sparkly as ever. Join Elspeth as she battles literary snobs and her mother's nerves, armed only with a blushing countenance and being quite bright. You know, for a girl. In this hilarious, one-(freakishly talented)-woman show, Penny tackles all of Austen's characters with song, dance and appalling cross-stitching.



watchthis
cultural connections

ON CBC and CBC GEM!

Goolagong is a three-part mini-series based on the inspiring true-life story of world champion tennis player Evonne Goolagong, one of Australia's greatest and most loved athletes.

Grand Designs Australia is in its 12th season, but only Seasons 8 to 12 are currently available for viewing. No design is too ambitious when it comes to creating your dream home. But discovering the hard realities that complicate your plans can often be too much to bear.



Grand Designs New Zealand is in its 9th season, but only Seasons 8 and 9 are currently available for viewing. Host Tom Webster meets creative and enterprising New Zealanders experimenting with architecture, technology and lifestyle in geographically extraordinary locations.

Skindigenous explores one of the oldest art forms and its relationship to Indigenous culture – tattooing. For millennia, humans have been marking their bodies with images and symbols giving visible form to what they hold sacred. Today, Indigenous artists around the world continue to practice this ancient art using their own techniques and traditions. For these artists, tattooing is an essential part of their cultural identity, as well as a vehicle for connecting with nature, the ancestors, and the spiritual world. Season 1 episode 9 and Season 2 episodes 7 and 8 feature stories about tattooing in New Zealand.

Hi everyone, this is my first column for *The Southern Yarn* and I hope it will be one of many.

The Down Under Club has a special place in my heart as I lived “down under” in South Australia (Adelaide) for two years.

The people, the scenery, the food, and yes, the wine, were all spectacular. As a result of my time in Australia, I only buy Australian reds and New Zealand whites. As far as I’m concerned, when it comes to wine, it’s a no-fail, foolproof combination!

As the Honorary Consul for the United Kingdom in Manitoba, I have been receiving several calls from British expats recently regarding the new passport requirements for anyone travelling to Britain.

This affects expats everywhere. So, if you are a) a British ex-pat, and b) planning a trip to Britain at any point in the future, you need to ensure that your British passport is up-to-date. For more information, this is where to start: <https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports>

I was delighted to see that **Paul McCartney** – yes, ‘that’ Paul McCartney – has released a new CD, *The Boys of Dungeon Lane*. As a life-long Beatles fan, I’m delighted to see that he is still letting his musical genius continue to amaze everyone.

I was never lucky enough to see the Beatles perform. However, I have seen Paul McCartney twice in Winnipeg.

Did you know that the biggest audience the Beatles ever had was a balcony appearance from the Adelaide City Hall? More than 250,000 people – roughly half the entire population of Adelaide at the time (including a young Judy Powell – Ed.) – came out to see them.

As for their actual performance in Adelaide, I’m very fortunate to have three actual pieces of the stage they played on. This is all thanks to a wonderful lady and her husband that I met on one of my first visits to Adelaide.

Thank you, Francene Connor!

That’s it for my contribution this time. If you ever need to reach me, feel free to email me at [dwightmacaulay111@gmail.com](mailto:dwrightmacaulay111@gmail.com) or call me at 204-791-6874



Stories from The Speewah

[Source: Dennis Woodford] The Speewah is a huge station behind the black stump, and it had a shearer called Crooked Mick. To find out more about Crooked Mick, check out, “The Story of Crooked Mick: Australia’s Legendary Shearer of the Speewah”, using the QR code below.

And here is one story about Crooked Mick not included there.

Crooked Mick and his mates had prepared a large vat of hot soapy water. Any flyblown sheep would be grabbed and brought to the large vat where it would be scrubbed on the fly-blown area using a broom soaked in the hot soapy water.

One big old ram who knew what was going to happen charged Crooked Mick as he bent over the vat. He flew in the air and landed bum first in the hot soapy water. His mates pulled him out and stripped off his clothes, while one mate slit the ram’s throat and skinned it, wrapping the skin around Crooked Mick’s singed torso.

They rode for seven days and seven nights to get Crooked Mick to a doctor. The doctor inspected Crooked Mick and said sadly, “There is nothing I can do. The skin is now permanently grafted onto his body.”

And Crooked Mick shored 15 pounds of wool every year from then on.



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cornerstore

DUCW member items for sale, swap or search



SOUVENIR

Just going thru some 'stuff' and found this bullroarer. It is an ancient musical and ritual instrument used by the Indigenous peoples of Australia in ceremonies, as well as a simple method of communication across long distances.

It was left over from the 2004 Folklorama Pavilion, so I bought it from Walter Nand. He had bought three over from Australia, but only two were sold. I recall paying \$50 for it, but will take an offer. It's in mint condition.

If you are interested, call Lucia at 204-261-7954.



CRATES

These sturdy wooden crates stack easily, store all sorts of stuff and are in excellent condition. I've used 13 of these in my office for 25 years, but these three need a new home.

\$5 each or \$15 for all three, with funds donated to Skills Unlimited, now called Steps2work [steps2work.ca] from where they were originally purchased.

For more information, contact Jenny at 204-228-9959 or words@jennygates.com.

Vegemite for the desperate, addicted or just plain devoted ...

Peter Gilberd reports that it is available in 220g jars from the Scottish and Irish store in Ontario. Check it out online at scottishandirishstore.com



And somewhere more local ...

Right here in Winnipeg, we also have the British Food Company. Check it out at 3125 Portage Avenue [britishfoodco.ca].

To submit items to be listed in The Corner Store, send an email to info@downunderclub.mb.ca



readerfeedback

thanks for writing back...

I enjoyed reading about the Commonwealth Air Training Plan and the Avro Anson MK II in the last issue of the *Yarn*. My father James Tume was in the RAF during WWII, stationed in South Africa as a Wireless Radio Tech on the AVRO Anson MK I or V.

My father served alongside all the Commonwealth Allies. And more to this story is that before moving to Australia, he worked for AVRO in Canada. I also discovered that my dad's first job upon arrival in Australia was with radio tech equipment at the RAAF base in Edinburgh, South Australia.

For those who remember my dad, he got along very well with Gordon Keatch. Dad has been in heaven now for 11 years, and I'm sure that he and Gord have been sharing memories up there ever since.

—Yvonne Tume

Blue Light

This (NZ) registered charity works in partnership with police to deliver an extensive range of youth programmes and activities. The goals of Blue Light are to:

- Reduce the incidence of young people becoming an offender or victim of crime.
- Encourage better relations between the Police, young people, their parents, and the community.



Blue Light aims to assist the Police to achieve its youth and community objectives by providing proactive initiatives to meet a key target market.

It does this by providing young people with positive lifestyle alternatives and strategies to avoid becoming an offender or victim of crime.
[bluelight.co.nz]

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House wren and house finch. Photos by Charlie Powell

birds*i*view

by Charlie Powell

There seemed to be fewer songbirds through our area during the spring this year. Whether it's a trend or just a normal cycle remains to be seen.

What has been a delight, however, is the return of the little house (or brown) wrens. Again, we have the pleasure of them nesting in our yard. At the time of writing, there is constant coming and going from the nest – each visit bringing a grub. So, either Mr is feeding Mrs on the nest, or they're both feeding junior(s) in the nest. In between these

successful foraging trips, he likes to just perch and let out his happy trill.

Also this year, instead of goldfinches, we have a pair of house finches daily at the feeder – obviously nesting somewhere so far unseen. They are sparrow-like, except that the male has some upper red colouring. They are also much more musical than a house sparrow.

When I reflect on these and the other life-forms that call our yard home – chipmunks, rabbits, squirrels, racoons, deer, voles, earthworms and ants, etc. – I come to the conclusion that it must be a fairly eco-friendly place.



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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@hydesmith.com

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