The Southern Yarn

Nov. – Dec. 2026

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

NOVEMBER 2026

Annual General Meeting
Friday November 27, 7:00 pm
Munn's Residence
86 Clonard Ave, Winnipeg

Join us at the home of Peter and Margaret Munn where we'll look back at the year that was. Now, we know our annual general meeting isn't perhaps the most exciting event on our calendar. But, there are some important discussions to be had about **the future of the DUCW**, and we would love to get as much input as we can from as many of you as we can. So, please join us, and in return for your ideas and suggestions, there will be snacks and drinks. Any questions, contact Peter Munn at 204-237-1805.

DECEMBER 2026

Family Christmas Party
Sunday December 6, 4:00 pm
Scandinavian Cultural Centre
764 Erin Street, Winnipeg

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 **Tuesday 1st December** so we can give Santa's elves time to pack everything into the sleigh. Contact Margaret at 204-237-1805. This is also a **potluck supper** – so please bring to share a main or vegie dish, salad or dessert. The bar will be open, and we are looking forward to celebrating together.

2027

Australia Day and Waitangi Day
Saturday January 30
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. As we did last year, come for the food and stay for the fun. Take part in the "Cook Off" (details TBA) and/or 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.

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



Not-so-Formal Dinner

On Saturday October 24th our club again enjoyed our not-so-formal dinner at Bailey's Restaurant. The food was excellent, as usual, and paired with some wine provided by the club.

We had 20 members attending along with 6 guests for a very enjoyable evening in the Board of Governors' Room. Our guests – the Dycks, the Delongs and the Flynns – all had the chance to meet our fellow Antipodeans and joined in the celebrations.

As a means of getting to know us all better, we had a game whereby each person provided 3 facts about ourselves, of which 2 were true and 1 was a lie. The challenge for the rest of us was to determine which was the lie. This proved to be a lot of lighthearted fun and a look into all of our lives.

Bailey's made sure that we were ably served by Chris and the whole event was well organized by the manager, John Kovacs.

Peter Debenham

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



There have been a few elections recently – New Zealand had a close one; unlike the one our neighbour to the south had, which spoke very loudly; here in Manitoba our municipal elections resulted in several new faces. Our DUCW AGM is coming up. Will members show interest and show up? Will there be silence? That would speak loudly! Meanwhile the wheels of the press keep turning, encouraged by the suggestions and contributions that are offered and permissions granted. I had a "Birds I view" subject lined up for this issue until I saw a post on Facebook by a friend in Qld – see p.8. And I had chosen a *Famous Australian* to feature until Pamela Sabourin pointedly shared another Facebook post – see p. 5. Because of the nature of our club, the Winnipeg Free Press gave permission to reproduce the story on the Hercules, p.4. Our ever-reliable Jenny Gates made time to send in her wines and coffee promos – p.7. Hearty thanks to all! (except that there was no space left for another AI assisted bush yarn).



cricketyarn

If Tall tales are your wicket

Message from the rooms ...

Allan Lamb was walking in to bat one day against the New Zealanders at Trent Bridge and instead of heading directly for the crease, detoured left towards umpire Dickie Bird, explaining he'd accidentally walked out with his mobile phone and would he please mind it?

'Yes, of course,' said Dickie.

'Oh, thanks ... and Dickie, if it rings can you please answer it?'

Normally a free-flowing stroke-maker, Lamb this day was struggling to hit it off the square.

Bird was at square leg enjoying the contest when Lamb's phone rang. 'Hello,' said Dickie in a whisper. 'This is Dickie Bird on Allan Lamb's phone ... who is this?'

'This is Beefy,' said the unmistakable voice of Ian Botham. 'Can you tell bloody Lambie to either play a few shots or get out!' *Excerpts from Favourite Cricket Yarns by Ken Piesse (2016) quoted with permission from Echo Publishing.*

president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Hello again. Before I start, a reminder about the Annual General Meeting, to be held on Friday 27th of this Month, in the friendly confines of our home at 86 Clonard Avenue. There are many important matters to be decided upon, and we do need your input. So please make an effort to come along if you are available.

On a less important note, let me tell you about the deforestation of Old St. Vital, north of Fermor Avenue , Highway #1. We have lived on Clonard avenue, in the Glenwood area, for over 40 years. When this area was first surveyed, the majority of the area was broken into 25 foot wide lots, and most original owners purchased 2 lots for their new homes. And that fact has given rise to the now common target of builders buying these homes when they become available, tear them down and build a tall skinny home on each of the lots. Along with that, many trees are being taken down to enable this to happen.

Our particular deforestation at number 86 has taken other reasons. One original reason to buy the house was for the number of trees in and around the property. Unfortunately, there are now 6 less. A large Birch was removed many years ago, it leaned over the back of the house, so we didn't push our luck any more, and had an arborist come in and take that tree down. Next to the birch was a Manitoba Maple, and one windy day, down came a very large branch, which luckily only took one pale on our dividing fence with the neighbours, but his car was totally saved by landing on all the communication and electrical wires bundled together going from the back lane to his house. So that failing tree had to be demolished as well, as it also leaned over our house. To the right of those trees were an apple tree, very generous with its production of juicy 2" apples, and a crab apple tree, also extremely productive. But with the end of the season, as apples dropped, on our property and the neighbours, the wasps came, and in such numbers that we could not enjoy the backyard, and outdoors barbeques, as we once had. Then they became territorial, started using their stingers, and after one more visit to the ER to cure skin infections, we took the apple tree down, followed by the crab apple tree, as the wasps stayed, and simply changed their dietary habits.

Then, one more pest started on our 3 very large Elm trees on the boulevard, which pro-



vided shade from the summer afternoon sun. When our kids were young, these trees also acted as third base for the baseball games on the front lawn, and hiding places for the multiple neighbourhood games of hide and go seek. As their branches hung over the sidewalk, they were a great foil for Halloween night. We had a ring bolt attached to one branch, and through that ran a strong twine that led to a hidden bicycle wheel, with a pedal attached, behind our side fence. That wheel was held by a workmate clamp, which allowed the twine to be very quickly wound around the bike wheel. So, at the other end, hanging from the hook in the tree, was an ugly looking spider, about 3 feet across, made from shredded black plastic and re-formed wire coat hangers, with 8 long noisy legs, and luminous eyes. Able to be lowered at warp speed on unsuspecting parents and older kids. And safe from retaliation, as it could be quickly rewound, awaiting the next victims. You probably heard the screams from wherever you lived in Winnipeg.

And the pest. Dutch Elm disease. We lost one of the three boulevard trees about 6 months back, and sadly, a few weeks back, we lost the remaining two for the same reason. So, second base and the spider tree are no longer with us. The large bases left are a reminder of how large these trees were.

So that is it for me, please make an effort to come to the AGM,

Cheers, Peter

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of members of the Down Under Club of Winnipeg, Inc. will be held on **Friday November 27**, 7:00 pm, at 86 Clonard Ave (Munn's residence) in Winnipeg.

Election: All Club members in good standing are eligible to put their names forward for any position on the Board: President — Vice President — Treasurer — Secretary — Social Coordinator — Membership — Newsletter Editor.

For more information on board positions, if you would like your name to stand for one of the board positions, or have any other questions, please contact Peter Munn at **204-237-1805**.

Did *You* Know?

Curiosities abound



Cats on the "Coat-hanger"

[Source: Sydney Morning Herald, Valerie Lawson 24Jan2020] From the early 1950s to 1971, over 60 cats lived on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. After discharge from war service, Yvonne Rentoul took a lease in '48 on space in the southeast pylon and opened her All-Australian Exhibition. She is reported as saying: "The Lookout isn't a museum. It is educational because we have arranged dioramas showing different aspects of Australian life.

"For instance, the Australian wine-growing industry is represented by a scene with the Mount Lofty Ranges in the background and the vineyards in the foreground.

"There are scenes of old Sydney by Australian artist, Cedric Flower, gardens, a shop selling high-quality Australian souvenirs, and a cafe.

"Visitors can look over the Harbour through giant binoculars and telescopes."

But, by the early 1950s, the cats became the big attraction.

Oz*News*

Updates from Down Under



Source: Museums Victoria

Inseparable

[Source: Wikipedia] Tommy Woodcock first worked as an apprentice jockey for Barney Quinn, who was based at Randwick, New South Wales. Woodcock won several races, and worked as a jockey until 1927, when he was 22 years old. However, his size and weight increased, and he gave up jockeying in favour of being a groom and exercise rider.

It was in this way that he met trainer Harry Telford and his horse Phar Lap, widely regarded as the greatest Australian racehorse of all time. In 1929, Telford employed Woodcock as Phar Lap's strapper. From then on, Tommy and Phar Lap were virtually inseparable. Before big races, Woodcock would sleep outside Phar Lap's stable, and it was said that Phar Lap refused food from anyone but Woodcock.

7 years ago

On 31st December 2019, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported the muster of another 36 Firefighters from across Canada who volunteered to head Down Under to assist with the battle against wildfires. They would boost the number of Canadian wildfire specialists to 87 by the 4th January 2020. It was the first time that Canada had sent firefighters to Australia, although crews from Down Under came and assisted during the 2017 and 2018 wildfires in British Columbia. And this little Club in Winnipeg **raised over $20,000** to aid the victims.





Going bananas

Ecoganic bananas, identified by their tips dipped in red wax, are being regularly exported to Japan after months of trials and market testing.

Pioneered by Innisfail farmers Frank and Dianne Sciacca in Far North Queensland about 20 years ago, Ecoganic is an accredited farming system that uses natural ecosystems and minimal inputs to produce the fruit.

Mr Sciacca said the story behind the fruit had resonated with Japanese consumers.

"The Japanese culture is one where they like their food, they like to know how their food is presented, the meaning of their food, how it's grown," he said.

"I think that was a very important part of us being able to get our product into Japan."

"Japanese consumers are very interested in special farming methods, and they have high expectations for taste and quality."

Porridge Champs

[Source: BBC, 4Oct2026] Two national porridge-making champions from almost opposite sides of the planet have triumphed in the annual world championships held in the Scottish Highlands.

Gina Saarberg, 28, took the coveted Golden Spurtle using the same recipe that saw her crowned Dutch champion in July, using organic pinhead oats, salt and water that she brought with her from the Netherlands.

Australian champion Rob Reid took the speciality award - where competitors can



combine oatmeal with any ingredients - with his porridge cannoli, an oaty spin on a tube-shaped dessert that originated in Sicily.

Thirty competitors from 14 countries took part in the contest, held each year at Carrbridge, just north of Aviemore.

NZNews

Kiwi Updates



Making a comeback

[Source: NZ Department of Conservation] Kākāpō are a taonga species to Ngāi Tahu, the principal Māori iwi of southern New Zealand. These nocturnal, flightless parrots are critically endangered and among the world's most unique birds.

There are 325 kākāpō alive today – up from 235 a year ago. All are wild and there is currently no place where the public can visit or view kākāpō in person. The kākāpō is a large, green, flightless parrot with an owl-like face and a waddling gait. It is nocturnal, the world's only lek-breeding parrot, and possibly the longest-lived bird species, living 60–90 years. It is also the heaviest parrot species, with males weighing up to 4 kg.



Auckland to Wellington by rail

[Source: New Zealand Rail] The Northern Explorer train service is a scenic rail journey through the five unique geographical regions of the North Island - travelling between Auckland, New Zealand's largest city - home of the Sky Tower, through the central heartland of the North Island to Wellington - New Zealand's harbour capital and arts and culture centre.

Along the way, you will see fantastic views of New Zealand farmland, rugged bush landscapes before ascending up the world famous Raurimu Spiral to the volcanic plateau passing the majestic volcanoes of Mt Tongariro, Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Ruapehu - the home of the North Island skifields and descending through stunning river gorges to the farming landscapes and rocky sea scapes of the lower North Island - all from large panoramic windows and the open air viewing deck of the Northern Explorer train.

The Northern Explorer carriages have an advanced air bag suspension system for quieter and smoother travel, un-tinted, non-reflective, panoramic side and roof windows to capture the dramatic coastal and mountain views of the magnificent North Island. GPS triggered journey commentary in five languages at your seat via headphones, plus information displays and overhead HD video and are centrally heated/air conditioned for passenger comfort.

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Air force pays tribute to retiring Hercules planes



Hercules flies over Winnipeg. Photo by C. Powell

[Source: Winnipeg Free Press, Chris Kitching, 26Oct2026] ROYAL Canadian Air Force personnel in Winnipeg bid farewell Saturday to the military branch's last remaining CC-130H Hercules planes — "workhorses" that crews flew in seemingly countless combat, rescue and transport operations.

The federal government is phasing out Canada's fleet of CC-130H Hercules aircraft, which entered service in 1974, in favour of modern planes, including the CC-295 Kingfisher, which will be used for search-and-rescue operations out of 17 Wing Winnipeg as of November.

"It's really part of our family and one of us. This was the backbone of a lot of things that we do here out of Winnipeg," Col. Curtis Wright, commander of 17 Wing Winnipeg, said of the "mighty Herc" after a retirement ceremony and a flypast.

The 435 Transport Search and Rescue Squadron, based at 17 Wing Winnipeg, is the final RCAF unit to fly the CC-130H Hercules. Two Winnipeg- based planes are still being flown. They will be taken out of service Nov. 1 and Nov. 18, Wright said.

A fleet of 12 is being retired this year. Ten planes are being sold to Coulson Aviation Ltd., in B.C. to be converted and used to fight wildfires. Ottawa did not disclose the sale price.

Two aircraft will be put on public display at bases or museums. One could possibly be displayed in Winnipeg, Wright said.

Backdropped by a CC-130H Hercules, the ceremony's speakers recounted memories of times on board the planes, while extolling the versatility and reliability of the fleet, and how it helped to shape the history of the RCAF during operations from the Arctic to Afghanistan.

They paid tribute to crews current and past, including several members who died in crashes and to Canadian Armed Forces personnel whose remains were returned to Canada on board the aircraft after dying in action.

In his address, Maj.-Gen. Chris McKenna, commander of 1 Canadian Air Division, acknowledged the 11 search and rescue technicians from Winnipeg who rapidly responded to a hospital in Wainwright, Alta. — parachuting from a CC-130H Hercules — after a fire at a nearby base killed four soldiers and injured dozens of others Oct. 17.

"On the Army's worst day, you were at your best," McKenna said to the technicians, who are elite primary- care paramedics, before they were applauded by the audience of about 200 people.

"The emails that I received this week from Army were singing your praises, so we're really, really proud of you."

In 2025, CC-130H Hercules planes were used to airlift thousands of evacuees out of northern Manitoba communities that were threatened by wildfires. The evacuations were part of Operation Lentus.

McKenna said one of the planes was unable to land on a runway that was surrounded by flames and shrouded by smoke at Norway House's airport.

"The missed approach routing, unfortunately, took the crew through what is known as a pyrocumulus cloud, which is exactly what it sounds like: thick clouds made of fire and smoke and ash and extreme turbulence," he said.

The crew fought turbulence to the "very limits" of the aircraft to get out safely, McKenna said. The plane was badly damaged and did not return to service afterward.

"I share this story as, once again, this tremendous aircraft did the job we needed it to under the most extreme conditions. It kept the crew and (its) occupants safe, and it brought them home to their families," McKenna said.

"Without the incredible capabilities this aircraft brought to bear, I have serious doubts we would have been as successful as we were in Op Lentus, and I seriously doubt that crew would have come home."

The fleet supported Canadian military operations, including its role in the war in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"This aircraft took me into Afghanistan. It took friends of mine out who didn't make it," McKenna said. "This aircraft took out our injured. It matters to a lot of us."

In 2011, members of 435 Squadron were responsible for air-to-air refuelling of NATO-led coalition fighters in Libya.

The planes were used when Canada responded with personnel and supplies during humanitarian crises and natural disasters around the world, including a devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010.

Domestically, the RCAF used the Winnipeg-based aircraft for many search-and-rescue missions — from lost hunters to missing civilian planes — across central Canada for decades.

"It's truly a significant, emotional event," Wright said of the retirement. "People have been flying on this aircraft for their entire careers."

The ceremony paid tribute to the RCAF's Winnipeg-based flight engineers and load masters, who Wright said will move to other bases and fleets in Canada because the newer CC-295 Kingfishers, which are smaller aircraft, will not be used for transport.

The retirement of the CC-130H Hercules is bittersweet for Cpl. Andrew Hannus, an aviation systems technician whose work includes maintaining and fixing engines.

"I love doing a lot of things on this plane. I love doing maintenance, I love doing servicing," said Hannus, who will remain in Winnipeg to work on CC-295 Kingfisher aircraft. "Standing there in front of the (Hercules) as it takes off or as it's landing, it's always a little rush of adrenaline."

[*Winnipeg Free Press* / Oct. 26, 2026 / republished with permission] chris.kitching @winnipegfreepress.com

famousAussies
Australians we should know more about

The man who fought to save lives on the death railway

Dr. Edward 'Weary' Dunlop (1907–1993)

When people visit Kanchanaburi, they often learn about the Bridge over the River Kwai, Hellfire Pass and the construction of the Burma–Thailand Railway during World War II. But behind this tragic history, there is another remarkable story worth knowing. It is the story of an Australian doctor named Edward 'Weary' Dunlop.

Who was he?

Weary Dunlop was an Australian surgeon and military medical officer. During World War II, he served with the Australian Army Medical Corps. In 1942, he was captured by Japanese forces in Java. On 20 January 1943, he arrived in Thailand in command of a group of Australian prisoners of war known as Dunlop Force, which was sent to work on the Burma–Thailand Railway. Imagine being a doctor, surrounded by thousands of sick, exhausted and starving prisoners, with almost no proper medical equipment or medicine. That was the reality he faced. A hospital in the middle of the jungle. As the railway construction continued, prisoners suffered from malaria, dysentery, tropical diseases, malnutrition, physical exhaustion and brutal treatment. Dunlop worked tirelessly to care for them.

With very limited medical supplies, he and other medical personnel improvised surgical instruments and medical equipment using whatever materials they could find. He treated serious wounds, performed operations and stood up to Japanese guards when they threatened sick and injured prisoners who were unable to work. His courage often placed his own life in danger. He was not the only doctor who helped prisoners under these terrible conditions, but his leadership and compassion became particularly well remembered among Australian former prisoners of war.

A connection to Kanchanaburi that many visitors may not know—there is another important local story connected to Dr. Dunlop.

During his time at Hintok Mountain Camp, he received help through secret supplies of medicine and other essential items provided by Thai businessman Boonpong Sirivejaphan, who risked his life and the safety of his family to help Allied prisoners. In his diary entry dated 2 September 1943, Dunlop recorded encouraging news about the supply of medical stores. After the war, Dunlop continued to honour the Thai people who had helped the prisoners. During an Anzac Day speech in Kanchanaburi in 1985, he paid tribute to Boonpong and other Thais who had supported the prisoners. Their connection later inspired the establishment of the Weary Dunlop–Boonpong Exchange Fellowship in 1986, supporting cooperation between Australian and Thai surgeons.



His legacy:

After the war, Dunlop returned to Australia and continued his medical career as a surgeon. He also remained active in supporting former prisoners of war and promoting reconciliation. In 1976, he was named Australian of the Year.

He passed away in 1993, but his story remains an important part of Australia's history and the memory of the Burma–Thailand Railway.

Why does this story matter when visiting Kanchanaburi? Because the Death Railway is much more than railway tracks, bridges and beautiful mountain scenery. It is a place where thousands of people suffered and died, but also where extraordinary acts of courage, friendship and humanity took place. When you visit Hellfire Pass, the railway or the historical sites around Kanchanaburi, remember that behind every location there are real people and stories that deserve to be remembered. At KBL Journey, we believe that understanding the history makes a journey much more meaningful. We are not here only to show you places. We want you to understand the stories behind them. Kanchanaburi has so much more history to discover.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the 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.

— John McCrae

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Commonwealth *corner*

linking many countries across the globe

Two young Commonwealth innovators lighting the way to a greener, more prosperous future

[Source: The Commonwealth, 9Oct2026] Two Commonwealth Young Persons of the Year are harnessing solar technology to tackle environmental and economic challenges. In Nigeria, Stanley Anigbogu turns discarded plastic into lighting for displaced families. In Uganda, Shifra Ainomugisha uses solar-powered cold storage, irrigation and artificial intelligence to help smallholder farmers reduce food losses. Their stories show how youth-led ideas, connected to Commonwealth networks, can grow into pathways to resilience and prosperity

Stanley Anigbogu, the 2025 Commonwealth Young Person of the Year, grew up with unreliable electricity and knew the frustration of studying through power cuts. In 2020, he founded LightEd and turned that childhood experience towards the energy needs of Abuja's Durumi camp for internally displaced people.

His Lighthouse for Peace project transformed 600 kilograms of recycled plastic—almost 30,000 bottles—into a community energy hub. Thirty solar streetlights and 20 floodlights now illuminate the camp, while the hub charges more than 250 devices each week. Children study after sunset, neighbours gather more safely and young volunteers gain green skills.

Shifra Ainomugisha, the 2026 Commonwealth Young Person of the Year, began not in a large laboratory but on her family's modest tomato farm in western Uganda. Each morning, she collected fruit that had softened, split or rotted before reaching market. "Almost half a harvest could disappear, although my parents worked relentlessly and still struggled to keep us in school. Why is this so?" she asked.

Her answer became Solafam Uganda Ltd, the woman-led social enterprise she co-founded and leads. Solar-powered cold rooms keep produce fresh; solar irrigation carries farmers through dry spells without costly diesel; and LYN AI, a WhatsApp-based adviser, guides decisions on planting, pests, irrigation, harvesting and markets.

fine*vine*

Ben Sigurdson - Winnipeg Free Press



Escarpment 2022 Pinot Noir

In addition to their Australian operations, Torbreck Vintners has ventured across the water to New Zealand, and is now making wine there under the name Escarpment in the Martinborough region on the country's north island. The Escarpment 2022 Pinot Noir is pale brick in appearance, bringing aromas of earth, cherry, raspberry, plum, cedar and spice. It's dry and light-plus-bodied, with cherry, cola, red licorice, plum and spice flavours as well as white pepper and black tea notes, light tannins and acidity and a medium-length finish. Chill for 15 minutes and drink now. 4/5 — Martinborough, New Zealand, $32.99, De Nardi Wines.



Otu Wines 2025 Pinot Gris

From the Marlborough sub-region of the Awatere Valley comes this Pinot Gris, pale straw in appearance and offering fresh pear, peach, red apple, candied pineapple and floral notes on the nose. It's light-plus-bodied and dry, with ripe tree fruit (peach, pear and apple) making a big splash alongside a hint of spice and a touch of that candied pineapple note. No oak to speak of here. Drink this fun fruit salad of a white now, especially while it's on sale. 4/5 — Marlborough, New Zealand, regular $20.00, on sale now for $18.89, Liquor Marts and beyond)



Mojo 2024 Shiraz

Inky purple in appearance, this Aussie Shiraz brings black cherry, iron, earthy, plum and herbal notes aromatically. It's full-bodied and dry, with white pepper and dark chocolate notes coming with black cherry, raspberry and baking spice flavours. Acidity is modest, tannins aren't overpowering and there's some decent length on the finish (it's 14.5 per cent alcohol); it's drinking well now, but could be set aside for two to four years. Available at The Pourium and De Nardi Wines. 4/5 — McLaren Vale, Australia, $23-28, private wine stores)

Cricket brings the Commonwealth together



Cricket legend and CHOGM 2026 Envoy Sir Vivian Richards took the bat today at Marlborough House, for the launch of the 'One Commonwealth, One Team' Exhibition Cricket Match Series, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in November. The cricket series will be played alongside the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and will bring leaders and the next generation of Commonwealth cricket talent together in a celebration of sport, partnership and shared purpose.

Taking place at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua and Barbuda on 1 November, the series underscores the CHOGM 2026 theme, Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth, through one of the Commonwealth's most cherished shared traditions.

Chad Carpenter's Tundra

www.tundracomics.com





Photo by J. von Berky

birds *i* view

by Charlie Powell

Galahs and friends

The following is from friends who live in the Bellthorpe, Queensland, area:

A rare photo sequence! It's nesting season and the birds are hungry, so here we have all four of our favourite birds feeding at the bird table at once...

Graham and Gracie the galahs. These are new residents who have only this year discovered the benefits and delights of our place; prior to that we hardly ever saw a galah here. We think they're actually nesting here because it's mostly just Graham who comes to the table. They are well-mannered and sweet.

Bert the King Parrot. We have a zillion King Parrots who come in flocks, but Bert is very tame and therefore recognizable. Earlier today we were chatting in the house and he came inside, right up to where we were sitting in the loungeroom, to point out that he deserved sunflower seeds for his boldness. None of the King Parrots are well-mannered (they bicker constantly like kids at the dinner table) but we forgive them.

And our absolute favourite, Roger the Crimson Rosella. Roger is a darling and has absolute faith in his ability to twist us round his little toes. He ONLY wants sunflower seeds (like chocolate to birds - would you believe we buy them especially just for Roger), not run-of-the-mill wild bird mix, and he prefers to eat from your hand because then he is safe from the meaner birds who steal his food on the table. Roger tries hard to come when no other birds are around, and sings extremely loudly and tunefully until we stop whatever we are doing (I swear he knows when I've just sat down to lunch) and get him some food. It's no good ignoring him because he just gets louder and more insistent sounding. He's been coming to us for 7 years and although he does have a mate (Regina), she is too timid to come near us. Besides, Roger looks after her so well she doesn't need to.



Next issue:
Wild Turkeys

Propa Coffee in Winnipeg!



Yep, freshly roasted Aussie-inspired coffee is now available in the Peg.

And what better time to get your coffee than now ... with winter and Christmas literally on your doorstep!

The initiative of Jamieson Sheahan and Alivia Garner, Propa Coffee is inspired by the Australian café culture, where coffee is lighter, creamier, and part of everyday life.

Propa Coffee highlights flavour, not bitterness, and is roasted fresh for how people actually drink coffee. Every roast has a purpose, and each coffee is designed around how it's brewed – for espresso, drip, or French press. The result is balanced, café-style coffee done properly.

Propa Coffee is available online at **propacoffee.com /collections/canada-range** in 1 lb and 5 lb bags – whole bean or ground – and there is a range of flavours and roast levels, depending on your preference:

Morning Mate – roast level 1 – sweet and juicy, bright citrus, medium body

Sunny Surf Coast Range – roast level 2 – citrus, apricot, floral

Melbourne Underground – roast level 3 – nutty, sweet, full body

For more info, including how to choose the 'propa' coffee for you and to find out what sets this company apart, visit the Propa Coffee at **propacoffee.com**

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