



Mundaring
Community Bank® Branch



2024

MAD MARCH

April birthday: There's only one – enjoy your special day **Hazel** and may the year ahead bring you good health joy, and contentment,.

Abroad – but not too far, just “over the ditch” – **Dawn** enjoyed time catching up with family in New Zealand.

wheels wandered

3D Glowing Golf – from **Annette's** pen - 3 D Golf was stunning. Not so much the expertise of the players but the artwork. It took two artists from Germany over 1300 hours to compile. Four rooms were decorated with differing themes. A space theme decorated the first. Magical figures of human imagination an eagle plummeted towards you and a unicorn just missed my head. So real were the figures. Next room was submerged under the sea. Sharks, dugongs, fish and a myriad of coral and seaweed overseen by Neptune. The last room had space junk and Heath Ledger as the Joker offering the ace to me. together with Uluru, Sydney Harbour and other Australian icons. It was a great sight and more enjoyable than the Sistine Chapel. Each hole was different, with different obstacles and it was hard to decipher whether you were seeing in 3D or whether what you were seeing were actual obstacles as you putted the ball hoping to sink it. Some statistics: Lowest score – 41; highest score - 58; twelve holes in one – two players scored 3 each – probably shouldn't have included Rosemary as 3D doesn't work for her. If you didn't go you should take a friend and enjoy the experience.



Sculptures by the Sea – from **Cheryl's** pen - This year is the 20th Anniversary of this event. The day we went the weather was just perfect. The sea was like a millpond, it was still and sunny. The sea has the advantage over the Sculptures where I am concerned so Sally and I enjoyed a sublime swim. There were no waves to contend with and the water temperature, once over the initial gasp, was lovely.

However, I did spend some time looking at other sculptures. My very favourite was The Seated Man by Sean Henry a British sculptor. Another one which really appealed to me was The Gumnut Quintet by Tania Spencer. This was made from copper wire, was 560 cm long and was suspended between two Norfolk pines. Just beautiful!! There were several done in granite with some areas highly

polished and other areas left natural. One of a boat by Chinese sculptor Shen Lieyi, another by Japanese sculptor Wataru Hamasaka was inspired by Marat's Therapy and another by Keizo Ushio, also from Japan, were in this medium. Ayad Allqaraghooli from Iraq piece was called Propose and featured two almost stick figures the male one balanced on a circle holding the female in the air. Lovely. We lunched in various spots around Cottesloe.

Joyce didn't go on this outing for the sculptures. Instead, she came along to be near the sea, to sit, to reflect and to reminisce. She "misses the sea".



Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery - from **Gwyneth's** pen – **Jintulu: People of the Sun.** The gallery opens at 12 now, so we left after lunch. The title of the exhibition references the fact that Indigenous people lived free under the sun, colonisation has cast a shadow across their lands, taking away which was most sacred, their freedom.

Most accessible perhaps, was Valerie Takao Binder's installation, *Dwelling Place/Mia Mia*. Comprising a mock-up of a corrugated iron shack where she grew up in the 1950s on the Swan Valley Nyungar Community near Midland, paintings and an audio recounting her everyday life. A banner reads "They called us thieving black bastards". We Western Australian Spokes grew up in the same era where the Aboriginal people had a curfew in many towns; be out of Midland by 6pm or face three month's goal!

A striking collection of panels by Sydney Nolan, *The Snake*, twelve metres wide appropriates the Rainbow Serpent. Made partly in response to Nolan's work, in the same gallery Terry Murray has a series of large paintings representing the water sources brought to the surface by ceremony on his traditional land. He contends that Nolan's repetitive work could also be a depiction of ceremony. Murray's paintings were completed this year, Nolan's in 1973. Could attitudes be changing?

Boong, an installation by Curtis Taylor was overwhelming and heart breaking. Plunged into a totally dark room, we were confronted by the bull bars of three 4WDs, headlights and spotlights flashing intermittently blinding us while the audio track relayed a torrent of threats, racial abuse and hatred directed at an unseen victim.

Natalie Scholtz has a different take on Australian post settler and gender identity as she is a recent immigrant of mixed racial heritage. Her paintings morph between introduced and indigenous animals and humans, male and female, brown and white people.

One painting is a collaboration between Scholtz and Murray. This is the reality of Australia today, perhaps there is hope for a better future even after the referendum.

We raced back home and made the Committee meeting on time. Quite a day.

WASO - Under the baton of Principal Conductor Asher Fisch the orchestra provided the audience with a spirited performance of the **overture to The Bartered Bride by Bedrich Smetana** – a celebration of rural life and love.. "Unusually the overture was written before the opera proper, and really doesn't quote any themes from the opera; it just functions as a marvellous and vivacious. mood setter. The opening is a bit unusual too as it begins with a spirited string fugato – i.e. the string sections come in one after the other, rather than the whole orchestra starting out with a loud beginning and play an intense running figure rather like a fugue. Later other themes invoke the wonderfully syncopated world of Bohemian dance rhythms. It's a joyful delightful overture to the opera whose gaiety has never failed to enthuse audiences everywhere." This effervescent piece was followed by the more sombre but equally uplifting **Symphony No. 4 by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**. "Following his catastrophic marriage, Tchaikovsky made a start on his fourth symphony. After emerging from a profound period of writer's block, struggling with his sexuality and battling with a heavy bout of depression, it's perhaps unsurprising that the music is urgent, supercharged and violent at points. Between the moments of anguish and melancholy, Tchaikovsky proves he knows how to write a great tune - even the plaintive oboe melody at the beginning of the second movement,, swells with a poignancy and optimism, helped along by lush strings and booming brass. The Finale, complete with frenzied plucking from the strings and rushing scales bursting through the texture, is certainly a highlight, whilst the doom-laden Fate theme comes back once more. In the Finale, Tchaikovsky drew on his Russian roots to produce the impression of a folk celebration; his message is to take joy in others' joy. Certainly, by the dramatic last chords, no listener could doubt the composer's contention that his works "have all been felt and lived by me and have come straight from my heart." Before heading to our homes in the hills we made a slight detour to the Swan View Tavern for lunch.

Classic Book Club – from Cheryl's pen –The Time Machine

This month's book was "The Time Machine" by HG Wells. We enjoyed the information in getabstract. According to that source "There's no denying that The Time Machine is an extraordinary work of imagination. More than 100 years after its initial publication in 1895, HG Well's tale of a nameless scientist who builds a time machine, travels to the year 802,701 AD and there encounters humanity's descendants – the childlike Eloi and the monstrous Morlocks – continues to engage readers and inspire fellow science fiction authors. We were very engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the read!

The article continues "Wells handily inverts a core belief of his day – namely, that scientific and technological progress would, inevitably, lead to a better tomorrow." He imagines a dark future for society because of the mistreatment of the working classes. We reflected on the state of our society where the divide between the rich and poor is widening and wondered where Artificial Intelligence might lead us!!!!

Sculpture Park Art Project and Eric McCrum. Eric had kindly agreed to lay a foundation for wheels' intergenerational art project, aimed at making the western end of Sculpture Park a bit more interesting and user friendly! It was almost 2o'clock and most of the chairs were empty! Then residents of Hilltop wandered in, together with a few more Spokes and just in time or a little bit late several families from the Home schoolers arrived. Eric, in his inimitable style, regaled us with anecdotes from his early life, origins of the names many of WA's towns and suburbs derived from the various Aboriginal dialects, the "language" of some species of birds and much more. It was unfortunate that Mundaring had a power outage so Eric was unable to illustrate his talk with photos and/or video, which would no doubt have engaged the attention of the smaller members of the audience for a little longer. Afternoon tea, minus tea or coffee, enabled the groups to mingle, many folk clutching an autographed copy of Eric and Janine McCrum's recent book on the Jarrah Forest..



Parliament House Lunch

- It was a first visit for many, and they were impressed with the surroundings; surveyed the 'gallery' of prominent women parliamentarians with interest (but confessed the only one they recognised was former Premier Carmen Lawrence.) and eyed the Aboriginal art in the same area too. Matthew hosted one table and was heard to offer to drive wheels' bus when he retires! The other table was hosted by Upper House MP Lorna Harper and Karen Beale, Mundaring Councillor, member of Matthew's staff and at this stage heir elect to Matthew as Labor's candidate in the Kalamunda electorate. Everyone enjoyed their lunch and the choice available satisfied even the fussiest of eaters; appreciated too were the efficient staff and silver service, not an everyday experience for us. We had the opportunity to catch a glimpse of democracy at work from the Speaker's Lounge for the Parliamentary ritual of Question



Time though some wondered how Ministers replying to "Questions without notice" always seemed to have a piece of paper to which they referred (Ministerial staff have the task of preparing briefing notes for likely questions.) It was a lot quieter than the hubbub in Canberra!! Thank you Matthew for the privilege and maybe we can 'sneak' in another visit before you retire!

"Dublin" Messiah - Why "Dublin" Messiah? Records show that Handel made many revisions of the Messiah. The Dublin version in 1742 was the first performance of this beautiful oratorio and it is believed the solo arias were simplified because Handel was of the view that the Irish soloists weren't as skilful as those available in London! Whatever the reason, we all enjoyed the musical 'feast' provided by the 100 voice UWA Choral Society choir, four soloists and the Australian Baroque

orchestra whose musicians play on historical instruments, though were somewhat disconcerted when parts of the audience applauded after each solo performance. Coming late in oratorio is the glittering instrumental solo "The Trumpet Shall Sound" which was played superbly by the young female trumpeter and warranted a special burst of applause. Why do we stand for the Hallelujah Chorus? Legend has it that when King George 11 heard it in 1743 he was so moved by the performance that he stood – when the King stands so does everyone else and so the tradition continues to this day

Folk & Blues, Sculpture Park. We guesstimate a couple of hundred people of all ages enjoyed 3 hours of music on a balmy Saturday evening, although by concert end all were in the dark except for the lights from the band. MC'd by Marcus Sturrock, guitar player extraordinaire, who set the standard for the evening's performance. He was followed by Italian singer songwriter Alessandro Lepore and Kate McMahon and Kevin Conway of Echo & Swan whose harmonies were beguiling. Spirit of Alba, one of WA's most exciting folk ensembles, was the headline act, playing fiddle, guitar, border pipes and whistle and whose mellow melodies, toe tapping, foot stomping contemporary folk music was powerful and electric – and had the little people cavorting and dancing on the lawn. After a couple of encores at almost 8 o'clock the band turned their lights outwards so the audience could find their way safely down the amphitheatre landings. A fantastic evening's entertainment – thank you Shire of Mundaring!, Lottery West and Heathway!

World War 11 Tunnels - Leighton Battery Heritage Site.. The builders of the World War 11 tunnels at Buckland Hill would not recognise today's site – once just a bare limestone hill with scrubby growth and a motor bike scramble track on the eastern side, now verdant with hardy local trees and shrubs and palatial homes in serried rows built to take maximum advantage of the ocean views! We had a chance meeting with our guide, David Walker, at the locked gate so were able to drive to the reception area, where we parked the bus. We had time to browse the displays in the reception area, before watching a short video presentation. A short walk to the gun emplacements and a brief history of each one – the last a replica of the more modern 5.25 machine. There had also been a battery of smaller anti-aircraft guns which, together with other bases along the coast, Rottnest and Garden Island, provided overlocking arcs through which any attacking aircraft or warship would have to navigate. Having negotiated the 35 step's down, with a commentary and lights turning on as we went, we visited the first aid room, stand-easy quarters for men & women (a 6-bunk room with no amenities), observation deck, ammunition room and other operational areas. There was no kitchen – meals were brought in- and no bathroom facilities (it was 35 steps up to a long drop toilet on the surface!). Back on the surface, some folk joined David for a look at the incomplete renovations of the tunnels under the gun turrets. We thought we'd lunch at the Ocean Bar at Leighton Beach but 'twas closed on Monday's. We found sustenance at the Cottlesloe Beach Hotel, before heading back up the hill via Canning & Great Eastern Highways. Not a shot was fired in anger!



Home Movie – from Hazel's pen - Neither the venue nor the film were as originally planned.! We met at Pretty Lane at the home of Glenise and Des Burge to watch Penguin Bloom. This is the true story of Samantha Bloom (Naomi Watts) who was holidaying with her husband (Andrew Lincoln) and their three young sons in Thailand when she suffered a devastating accident. She fell twenty feet from a faulty balcony railing which rendered her paralysed from her chest down.

As a young previously fit and active woman she not unsurprisingly suffers severe depression which impacts the whole family. Her eldest son blames himself for the accident as he encouraged his mother to see the view from the balcony.

The children rescue a baby magpie and hand rear it at their home. They call the magpie Penguin because of its black and white colouring. After some time Samantha eventually bonds with Penguin and as the magpie gets physically stronger her emotional health improves. Samantha loved water sports before her accident and is persuaded to take kayaking lessons. She goes on to become world champion twice. Penguin eventually learns to fly and leaves the family. An interesting footnote is that the filming took place in the Bloom's home in Newport, NSW. The movie was heartwarming and there were a few teary eyes at the end.

We retired to the patio for a pizza lunch with wine whilst Des regaled us with his jokes and stories. Thank you Glenise and Des for your hospitality