



Mundaring
Community Bank® Branch



2025

FEBRUARY FROLICS

March birthdays: It's that time to wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to **Ray (a bit late now!), Ken, and Cheryl.** Enjoy your special day and may the year ahead bring good health, joy and contentment to each of you.

Spokes on the Move: **Meg** spent time in Sydney/Newcastle to celebrate birthdays – hers and a niece – and said (yet again) it was definitely the last time she'd head east. – A 'love affair' with the country saw **Helen** head to India to make some more memories; whilst Verna spent a few days with family in Dalzellup

Sculpture Park Intergenerational Art Project: It's getting exciting and a little scary!! Briefing notes have been submitted to Mundaring Shire Council to assist members reach a decision whether to allocate funds from the Shire's Art acquisition budget to this project; in anticipation that the Shire will be supportive, an application for funding support is also being made to Mundaring Bendigo Community Bank.

The design concept by artist Jason Maxlow represents "the nut, leaf and seed of the Jarrah tree which are discarded on the forest floor, often by fauna such as the Karaak-Red Tailed Cockatoo or Doornart-Ring neck Parrot as they feed on nuts in the canopy. Created in stone and corten steel and arranged as an inviting tactile and informative space to discover and explore, featuring laser etched text and smooth surfaces of the polished stone nuts. Forms inspired by magnified shape of the jarrah tree seed will function as informal seating. A combination of text (flora and fauna in Noongar, Latin and English) and images will be etched, laser cut or stencilled on to the surface of corten steel leaf forms. These images will be developed from drawing outcomes of community workshops. Consultation with Local Elders will guide the use of Noongar text adapted from the glossary of McCrum's book."

It's turned into a very different and expensive project which cannot proceed without the financial help being sought. So fingers crossed everyone, please!

Book Café – Hub of the Hills, Craig Street – Tuesday, 18 March from 9.30 am • Purchase good quality pre-loved books Free tea and coffee. • Home-made morning tea \$2.. • All money raised from book sales, raffle and morning tea goes to **Dementia Australia** towards providing a thank you event for Dementia Advocates. **Guest Speaker Jane Wells** will talk about ways to reduce the risk of developing dementia.

wheels wandered –

Rummykub: Two games of three, became two games of four. Frowns and groans as players filled their trays with low numbered tiles, frustrated at not being able to begin to play without the magic number to start. Eventually everyone had tiles on the table and then it was a battle of wits, and luck of the tiles, to see who finished first – we don't keep score, so there are no winner's crowns or loser's wooden spoons. A fun and light-hearted afternoon, exercising the grey cells, chatting and enjoying afternoon tea.

Great Kimberley Adventure: Argh!!! It's a long way down; I felt as if I was teetering on the edge of a precipice. It took a second or two to reassure my brain that my feet were firmly planted on the jarrah floor of Boola Bardip, and I was looking at a screen— about to be taken on a virtual reality journey over some of the most awe-inspiring landscapes of the Kimberley, guided by scientists and Traditional Owners. In the clear Kimberley air the colours glow more brightly, and the contrasts are more strikingly vibrant. Some highlights - We “flew” over the edge of the thundering King George Falls, explored the vibrantly striped domes and majestic gorges of Purnululu National Park (the Bungle Bungles), were intrigued by the drawings of the Wandjina people, dated at over 12,000 years ago, and travelled even further back in time 350 million years to the great Devonian Reef as we watched the crystal clear water flow over the rim as the tide receded, exposing the ancient geology. Awesome, fantastic it's hard to find words to describe the experience – on till 28 April, \$17.50 concession you need to book a time, don't miss it! Friday lunch at the PICA Bar was busy, but we found a table under the shade of the trees.

Casa Musica- from Gwyneth's pen:: The East Perth Power Station is a new venue for the Perth Festival. Decommissioned in 1981, the historic site and buildings have not yet been repurposed despite various plans over the years. However, a lick of paint and a few amenities including a state-of-the-art main stage have transformed the place into a fabulous temporary outdoor entertainment centre.

We found the limited Acrod parking just at the entrance. (Not like trying to park in Midland for the train, an infuriating, frustrating experience – ‘try High Wycombe’ was the unhelpful response to our complaints!).

We were fussed over by staff and volunteers – Deet for the mossies, wheel chair for the slope, chairs and tables reorganised, umbrella for the sun – that was problematic when Sally was hit hard by a poorly secured, lethal broly - happily no lasting damage,

“Inspired by the summertime parks and piazzas of southern Europe, of people watching and dancing in the street, **Casa Musica** is your passport to music from across the Indian Ocean rim and beyond”.

We came to the free stage where there was bench seating and cushions on the grass; being early we found chairs and tables. The bar was great, unlimited ice and water but limited food of varying quality There was a crowd - young and old, kids and dogs and you couldn't fault the setting: metres from the river, trees and a footpath where the locals walked and rode.

A group from Toronto playing a fusion of Indian and Western music were augmented by performers from Mahabharata, a five-hour epic also Canadian, that played at His Majesty's. General consensus was that the musicians were great but the music not really to our taste – better one style or the other. We didn't stay for the nightly light show which promised to be spectacular judging from the pictures. The Perth Festival will have the Power Station as a precinct until 2028 and doubtless the set up will evolve. Parking could be an issue and there was very limited Acrod parking. The family also attended but came by train and shuttle bus, OK apparently.

Ballet at the Quarry: The Wild Between Stars, choreographed by Loughlan Prior, the opening piece was a neo-classical ballet, purportedly “a journey through the infinite universe...” The programme notes certainly aim for the stars, but it's more like a pleasant stroll through a particularly well-decorated park. A bunch of very pretty dancers wearing very pretty frocks prance around the stage Graceful? Yes. Romantic and ethereal? Absolutely. But a “journey through the infinite universe”? Not really – more like a fun romp in the woods. The choreography lacked the depth and complexity to truly capture the vastness of the cosmos, nor did the music evoke the sense of wonder one might expect. It all felt a bit... safe.

The second piece was far more exciting and innovative. Choreographed by Tara Gower, an Indigenous dancer from Broome, who formerly danced with Bangarra, **Ripples** was a glorious fusion of ballet and Indigenous dance. Innovative in form and concept it opened with a single green spotlight on a smoking conch shell., the dancers curled on the ground, shrouded in smoke. Powerful didgeridoo (played by Isaiah Walley Stack) rumbled , rounding the audience in the earth of Indigenous Australia. It was a stark contrast to the ethereal European prancing of the previous piece. The choreography blended the precision of ballet with the fluidity and earthiness of Indigenous movement. The dancers moved with a

power and grace that felt both ancient and contemporary. The second part, **Bird Song** began with the magical warbling of bird call. The dancers performed a swan dance, their bodies evoking the fluttering of wings and the power, strength and majesty of birds in flight.

Gower says that *Ripples* explores, “The polarity of northern and southern WA, Freshwater and Saltwater, First Nations and Non-Indigenous, contemporary dance and ballet” and adds that she hopes to “find something new, promote reconciliation and celebrate our rich untold history”. The enthusiastic applause at the end was an indication that Gower’s message was received loud and clear.

It’s the 150th anniversary of Tchaikovsky’s *Piano Concerto No. 1*, and queer artist Lucas Jervies decided to create **Concerto Anniversary** to celebrate the flamboyance of this concerto, which, in turn, seems to Jervies to celebrate Tchaikovsky’s own “frowned-upon queerness.” Jervies’ choreographic creation is flooded with humour, putting the peacock-like qualities of the male dancers to the fore. Their costumes, which he designed, are nigh-on non-existent and splattered with light, shimmering gold. You can sense Jervies’ delight as he moulded his ideas throughout the piece, and certainly, the male dancers are in their element. I don’t think I saw a single one without a grin the whole time they were lifting their partners to the heavens or dancing three at a time, conscious of each other’s presence yet individual in their sumptuous pride. The women – exquisite and skilful – were actually a bit in the shade. Jervies brought a joyful, sparkingly effective look to Tchaikovsky’s iconic score while simultaneously justifying his globally lauded talent. (*Adapted from reviews in Arts Hub and Limelight*) While not every piece landed perfectly, the artistry and passion on display were captivating – a memorable evening of dance in a truly rare and lovely setting under a starry night sky.

Classic Book Club: *Cecilia* by Frances Burney – alternatively titled *Memoirs of an Heiress*, written in 1779 and published in 1782. Cheryl scored a copy with a readable number of pages, others not so lucky with over 1,000 –we tried but couldn’t finish it! To quote in part from a reviewer

“Cecilia is placed in a position that, for modern readers, can only be seen in pointedly feminist terms: she is an heiress, but can only inherit if her husband agrees to take her surname but the man she loves is from a very old and proud – though not very wealthy – family. The plot therefore takes these ideas of female autonomy, financial muscle, and patriarchal tradition, and clashes them together with extreme violence to see what breaks

Cecilia and her love interest are endearing enough, but the real fun comes from the amazing cast of supporting characters, whom Burney sketches as a series of hilarious caricatures. The flighty socialites, proto-gossip-girls, sleazy men and haughty toffs are so recognisable today. Burney captures the daily life of 1779–80 London, including fashionable events and soirées of the period; details how people got around, what kind of etiquette was involved in mixed-sex socialising, who handed whom into carriages, how you called on acquaintances, how you made travel arrangements, and so forth.

And, surprisingly, the focus too is very much on what we might now call social justice; there is a consistent effort to range through different classes of society, and indeed to challenge socio-economic structures in and of themselves.” *Cecilia* includes such set-pieces as a public suicide in St James’s Gardens. And, for another thing, moral ambiguity – there are many characters who are sympathetic but seriously flawed, The ‘happy ending’, if such it is, is a very ironic one..... The world of *Cecilia* is, in the end, a disturbing and a dark one,” Maybe I should find time to finish it!

Orchestra-oke: from Lyn Y’s pen - : The Perth Festival events we choose to attend each year can be, an unknown quality and be a bit disappointing or quite entertaining. Saturday night’s Orchestra-oke under the stars at Pat O’Hara reserve in Morley was definitely the latter.

The Perth Symphony Orchestra together with some local non-professional, but quite talented singers, entertained the huge family orientated crowd gathered on the grass on chairs or rugs, with many dancing along in front. A large screen on each side of the professionally well-lit stage, including the words of each song, made sure visibility and karaoke participation was possible for everyone.

The organization for this free event by the Perth Festival and the Bayswater Council was very good. Parking was well directed and easy (as was leaving the venue). A good variety of food vans were on

site to feed the hungry (alas NO COFFEE), and plenty of seating and tables provided. The MC on stage was very entertaining and kept the entertainment non stop. We all agreed that, apart from the breeze that was a little cooler than expected, it was a very pleasant evening out together.

The bus had been booked to overflowing but there was a spare seat when Spokes headed down the hill for the walk over [Boorloo \(Perth\) Bridge](#) which celebrates Aboriginal heritage of the area. History tells us that this crossing was the shallowest part of the Swan (Derbal Yerrigan) River, with five islands, now made into one, Herrison Island, - making it a traditional crossing point. The northern end with its stylised boomerang celebrates the hunters, whilst the two digging sticks at the southern end celebrate the gatherers. In the middle is Herrison Island which, for some obscure reason, is named after the midshipman on the French ship, La Naturaliste captained by Nicholas Baudin 1801-04 – celebrates Yagan and the warriors who endeavoured to obstruct the white men from settling further up river. The surroundings, particularly on the island, have been thoughtfully landscaped; sculptures and murals abound, providing historical insights; the pavement is well marked separating cyclists and walkers – though it's easy to cross the lines while “rubber necking”! It was an overcast morning with the river reflecting the grey of the clouds, but it also meant that those who walked the distance there and back didn't roast along the way, Some strode out, others ambled or meandered, everyone stopping now and again to enjoy a different view of the river, Victoria Park and the City. We had taken morning tea but most of us opted for coffee and cake at the Point to Point Café You can find lots more information, photos, etc if you copy <https://www.outandaboutfnc.com/post/boorloo-bridge-and-heirisson-island-matagarup-perth> into your browser!

