



Mundaring
Community Bank® Branch



2024

FEBRUARY FROLICS

NOT VERY FROLICSOME, TOO HOT!

March birthdays: It's **Ray, Ken, Kim and Cheryl**'s time to celebrate another year. Enjoy your special days, and may the year ahead bring good health, joy and contentment to each of you.

WHEELS' ART Project - Finally, after COVID interruption. the wheels are turning again and it's all happening! To help kick start the enterprise, parents and children from the Home Schooling group, members of wheels and Hilltop residents are invited to hear the legendary fount of knowledge of the natural world **ERIC McCRUM OAM** talk about local flora and fauna, providing local and indigenous names for both!. Where and when: **Hilltop Grove Community Centre, 1425 Jacoby Street on TUESDAY 19TH MARCH at 2.00 pm**. The afternoon will be facilitated by Jenny Kerr, Artistic Programme Support, Mundaring Arts Centre. As well as your suggestions on what form the artwork should take you may also have the opportunity to put pencil to paper to bring your thoughts to life! So do come along to what should be an informative and fun afternoon. Light afternoon tea provided. A Gold Coin donation will defray some of cost of the hall hire. For catering purposes **PLEASE LET CHERYL** know if you will be there - **text or ring 0427 776 629. by MONDAY, 11 MARCH.**

Hub of the Hills, 7 Craig Street - **SENIOR'S CARD** – Want to know if you're eligible or how to apply for one or replace a lost one. These questions and other useful tips will be answered at morning tea on **TUESDAY, 14 MARCH** at 10 am. No need to register, just go along, **BOOK CAFÉ, TUESDAY 19 MARCH** – 9.30 to 11 am. Quality pre-loved books for sale, free tea/coffee; eats \$2; raffle tickets; presentation by Christine Brown from **Kanyana Wildlife Refuge**. All money raised on the day goes to Kanyana

Sculpture Park – FOLK & BLUES - **SATURDAY, 22ND MARCH**, - 5 to 7.30pm Headlined by the **Spirit of Alba** – trad music modern and contemporary, foot stomping and subtle, powerful and electric. High velocity from the get go," B.Y.O picnic and chair – look for Spokes on the top tier of the amphitheatre.

THANK YOU to the **SHIRE OF MUNDARING**. Where some of your rates will go!
Unsolicited, but gratefully accepted.. wheels have been offered and signed a Funding Agreement with the Shire for an ex gratia payment of \$2,000 per annum (indexed) for three years to defray the cost of registering and insuring wheels' bus.

wheels wandered –

Michael Shafer, Comedian, Kalamunda Hotel. With a nose like his he just had to be Jewish! Seated in the front row Spokes provided fodder to warm the audience – we'd escaped from an aged care home, and all had the benefit of negative gearing. Michael's topics ranged from a grandparent surviving Auschwitz, arriving in Melbourne and setting up a bakery; disparaging English food - nearly every city has a Chinatown but where are the Englandtowns? Gay folk were the butt of jokes too – a wide-ranging, laughter filled evening. We gravitated to the dining room for dinner before heading home via the more suburban route!

Curtin Curtailed – from Cheryl's pen - On that Wednesday John Curtin Gallery was our destination where the Perth Festival offering would be showing; however, it transpired, in two days' time! Lovely weather, comfortable drive but no exhibition for us yet. A charming fellow from the gallery even tried to get permission to show us around but was told it was still a construction site (no insurance we surmised).

Anyway, it was lunchtime, so we quite happily took off, planning to spot a likely eatery. As we were passing Crown on the way home Lyn suggested The Camfield. Sally deftly changed lanes just in time so we ate there. For those who haven't been it is billed as the biggest pub in Australia. Despite that we enjoyed being there – great view of Matarangup bridge (Sally relived the zip line experience), reasonable food, good service, real plants and a brewery inside.

We very briefly considered The Junction in Midland for our art fix but settled on the Mundaring Arts Centre. Their exhibition was The Language of Colour, seventy- eight artists working in many media, all works understandably small and all a delight. Two larger pots took my eye but there are so many you would be happy to live with. The shop was even more enticing, someone's lovely natural dye prints, black-spotted deep green pots by Greg Crow and plant prints by Una Bell and jewellery and books and.... Felt compelled to look on their website and found images of all the works acquired by the Shire. Interesting

Pinky Swears, Comedienne, Kalamunda Hotel. We went early to eat first – our “reserved” table was nowhere to be seen so we found a space seated under a misty spray which blew over us periodically to keep us cool! Gill Gardner's alter ego as “Pinky Swears” was a show about truths, half-truths, and downright lies. A show about love, sex (a little too much from 15 to ??!), family relationships, survival course in the Scottish highlands, and the famously failed smuggling event off the Abrolhos Islands in 2022 in which her cousin Graham Palmer, was a principal “actor”. Gill also showed her talents as a visual artist with quirky illustrations for her stories and asked the audience if they could spot the story that was a lie – nobody did! We went through the forest and returned through ‘suburbia’.

Black Swan, The Pool – from Gwyneth's pen - The consensus was that it was different!

It was played out in and around the outdoor pool at Bold Park Aquatic Centre, the audience seated on the concrete bleachers, (except us who had chairs, thanks to Sally's influence). As we sat down, a group of beautiful young things were gliding through the water up and down the lanes.

Everyone was issued very effective earphones, so it was like eavesdropping on the private conversations of the staff and swimmers. The pool manager and a young instructor; an older couple and their troubled daughter and friend; a pair of high school kids and a young girl with some disability (actual) had the speaking parts.

Totally Western Australian in concept, the play held little dramatic tension, more an opportunity to air various social issues, the dialogue being a bit clunky and unlikely in parts (a teenager's view on parenting styles, come on), but mostly convincing. It was fun picking up who was talking as the actors were spread across the whole area, in and out of the pool. The finale was an aqua aerobics class for pre- registered audience members, very cute.

Overall, a pleasant if long evening: driving via the leafy suburbs and Lake Monger, chatting on the lawn and watching live theatre in a unique setting. Viva Black Swan!

PICA - We were to see three very different exhibitions, but again it was not to be – one by one Spokes “rolled over” till there were two. Two decided it was going to be a very hot day so opted for breakfast at Mojo’s. That too was something of a fiasco: expecting poached eggs on toast for two we were offered two poached eggs on a plate! Misunderstanding sorted – we enjoyed one egg on toast each and spent a couple of hours chatting and watching the antics of the magpies.

Classic Book Club – The Fortunes of Perkin Warbeck, by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley – a supposedly short tale (Sally did warn us it was probably four times as long as the advertised 179 pages) which fictionalises the exploits of one Perkin Warbeck (c. 1474 – 23.11.1499) who claimed to be Richard of Shrewsbury, Duke of York, who was the second son of Edward IV and one of the “Princes in the Tower” and the rightful heir to the English throne occupied by King Henry VII. Shelley believed that Warbeck really was Richard and portrayed him sympathetically as “an angelic essence, incapable of wound”, who is led by his sensibility onto the political stage. She also seems to have identified herself with Richard’s wife, Lady Katherine Gordon, who survives after her husband’s death by compromising with his political enemies – a saga spanning Spain, Ireland, England and Scotland – of wars, intrigue, betrayal and love.

Ballet at the Quarry - “Metamorphosis: Ballet at the Quarry”.- four unconnected works of contemporary dance, the minimalist costume and lighting focusing attention on the beauty of the human form. Two of the works, *Wonderers* and *Extension to Boom*, were choreographed by George Williamson. While *Wonderers* was a short, moody piece consisting of both ensemble work and a pas de deux (Candice Adea and Adam Alzaim), accompanied by a sound-score of heartbeats and drumbeats, *Extension to Boom* was much more expansive, with colourful costumes, fast paced movement and frenzied music. The headline performance, *Metamorphosis*, was the highlight of the evening. This piece by David Dawson comprised both ensemble work and a pas de deux (Chihiro Nomura and Gakuro Matsui) The choreography incorporated stillness, which provided balance from more intense moments of bodies swirling around each other, whilst the simple costume design of white leotards or leggings focused attention on the physique of the dancers. *In 3 min 40*, a short pas de deux choreographed by Gakuro Matsui reflecting his emotions during the pandemic was a pleasant piece performed by Beatrice Manser and Brent Carson (adapted from a review by Alana Kildea)

A Night on Bay View – Music under the Stars - The music was the star, there were none in the sky – ‘twas a cloudy and humid evening. We didn’t train as advertised, rather deciding to take a chance on parking close to the Park – we parked in the Park and had only a short walk to find a space for our chairs in front of the stage, albeit quite a distance from it.

WASO delighted us with some of the lesser-known classics including Englebert Humperdinck (not that one), Prelude to Hansel & Gretel; and Tchaikovsky’s Prelude to his Symphony No. 2, culminating with a medley of the Beatles’ classics: the orchestral offerings were interspersed with recitals from world renowned soprano Elana Peroni, whose high notes reached to the sky. An evening not to be missed and wildly appreciated by the guesstimated audience of 2,000. Watch out for 2025 concert on next year’s programme!

Home Movie – from Hazel’s pen: **The man who knew infinity**’ was this month’s home movie. It is a biographical drama film about the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan (Dev Patel) based on the 1991 book of the same name by Robert Kanigel. At the turn of the last century Ramanujan is living in Madras working in a menial job at the edge of poverty. His employer notices that he has exceptional mathematical skills and writes to various universities advising them of his outstanding ability. A famous mathematician at Trinity College Cambridge, G.H. Hardy (Jeremy Irons) writes back and invites him to Cambridge to test his potential. Ramanujan is overwhelmed by the offer even though this means leaving his wife Janaki (Devika Bhise) behind. He promises to write regularly and send for his wife to join him as soon as possible.

When he arrived in Cambridge he encountered racism and found his adjustment to life in England more difficult than he anticipated. Hardy is concerned that Ramanujan cannot communicate his theories effectively due to his inability to write proofs, but with perseverance he manages to get his work published in a major journal. In the meantime Ramanujan is diagnosed with tuberculosis and his frequent letters sent home remain unanswered. Janaki discovers that Srinivasa's mother has been intercepting her mail and not posting her letters him.

Hardy nominates Ramanujan for a Fellowship of Trinity College but due to racism this is rejected. Hardy is determined that his exceptional mathematical abilities be recognised and nominates him as a Fellow of the Royal Society which is granted..

Ramanujan eventually returns to his family in India but dies soon after at the age of 32. He is considered to be one of the world's great mathematicians.

We had our usual lunch of Mount Helena Deli fish and chips accompanied with sparkling wine. Thank you Ray and Sally for your generous hospitality.

