



Mundaring  
Community Bank® Branch



2024

# APRIL ACTION

**May birthdays:** **Glenise, Sandra, Laurence** and **Steph** celebrate another year. Congratulations! Kick up your heels and enjoy your special day and may the year ahead bring good health, joy and contentment to each of you

**R&R!** Eight Spokes headed to Club Wyndham in Dunsborough and enjoyed a week of sublime weather, managed to get where they wanted despite a very contrary GPS in the bus. Not mentioned in the musings later was a 'behind the scenes' and tasting at Cape Mentelle, which was quite fascinating and the customary 'must do' visit to canal rocks. The Anzac Day Dawn Service, not as cold as anticipated, was almost over as the rays of the rising sun turned the clouds a dusty pink.

**Thank you, Shire of Mundaring!**

**wheels' bus:** At the March Council meeting Councillors approved an ex gratia payment to wheels of \$2,000 per year indexed for three years as a contribution towards the licencing and insurance of wheels' bus.

**Sculpture Park Intergenerational Art Project** – wheels' application for a grant of \$3,000 from the InspireArts Community Creativity & Cultural Fund was approved and will enable an artist to be engaged to prepare concept plans.

**wheels wandered**

**Jazzy Dinner – Old Mahogany Inn** – We arrived in dribs and drabs as, though transport was provided, most folk decided to drive themselves. It was a warm and balmy Autumn evening and very pleasant outdoors with good food and good friends happily chatting. With the Smooth Groove duo playing easy-listening jazz in the background, the passing traffic was barely noticeable, - a convivial evening, with some folk almost the last to leave!

Garrick Theatre, ***The Lisbon Traviata***. – from ***Gwyneth's pen***

From farce to tragedy Terrence McNally's 1989 play ostensibly revolves around a record, vinyl, of course, of Maria Callas starring in *La Traviata* in Lisbon.

In a New York apartment two old friends addicted to opera, particularly Callas, bicker, reminisce and

argue. Mendy breaks into snatches of song to illustrate his points (great voice). They browse through a pornographic magazine "Kissinger must have left it there". Mendy desperately wants Stephan to get his copy of the record from his apartment, but Stephan's lover, Michael, is there with another younger man. Stephen seethes with jealousy and fear. Mendy just wants someone to cuddle. In Stephen's apartment the next morning we meet Paul, Michael's new lover, young, beautiful, and stark naked! The tensions increase until the inevitable end.

The Garrick is such an intimate space that we are completely there with the characters. One of our members was paying such close attention that she swore Paul was wearing something; discussion went down hill from there.

Great play, professional acting, brilliant sound, wonderful company; we are looking forward to Pygmalion, Garrick's next play.

(I listened to the Lisbon Traviata on Spotify while writing this.)

**Classic Book Club – Candide by Voltaire.** Had we been more aware of the background history which influenced Voltaire's writing— most notably the devastating Lisbon earthquake of 1755, the horrific 7-year War in the German states and the unjust execution of English Admiral John Byng - we would probably have been more awake to the satire and the hero's continued optimism .

*Published in 1759* "Candide is the story of a gentle man who, though pummelled and slapped in every direction by fate, clings desperately to the belief that he lives in "the best of all possible worlds." On the surface a witty, bantering tale, this eighteenth-century classic is actually a savage, satiric thrust at the philosophical optimism that proclaims that all disaster and human suffering is part of a benevolent cosmic plan. Fast, funny, often outrageous, the French philosopher's immortal narrative takes Candide around the world to discover that -- contrary to the teachings of his distinguished tutor Dr. Pangloss -- all is not always for the best. Alive with wit, brilliance, and graceful storytelling, *Candide* has become Voltaire's most celebrated work."

[WA Ballet - La BAYADERE](#) – from Paul's Valley **Barbara's** pen! A beautiful warm evening made gathering on the upstairs balcony at His Majesty's theatre, a very pleasant Perth experience. A happy crowd gathered to see [La BAYADERE](#) , a ballet first staged in St Petersburg in 1877- music by Ludwig Minkus and choreographed by Marius Petipa.

First staged in the West in 1961 it is regarded as highly technical and physically demanding .

The original story was based on an ill-fated love between a prince, a temple dancer [ BAYADERE ] and a grand vizier in a royal court. Greg Horsman reimagined the story in 2018 and set it in British India . It was first performed by the Queensland ballet in 2018. It is in three parts. Part one, the bloody colonisation of India with the eventual truce to be sealed by an arranged marriage between the Governor General's daughter Edith and the Maharajah's son Solor. Unbeknown to his father, Solor is in love with the beautiful temple dancer Nikiya .

Impressed with the performance of the Temple dancers Edith and her father request them to perform at the engagement party at the Maharajah's palace. Solor fights with his father over the plans but pretends to comply knowing he and Nikiya are going to elope. .

The lavish party begins. Solor continually rebuffs Edith 's obvious affection. [Nikiya](#) , unaware of the planned marriage, after the Dance of the Golden Idol she begins to dance, Solor joins her and ultimately kisses her. Edith is outraged, both older men are furious and in the mayhem Edith steals a soldier's dagger and kills Nikiya who dies in Solor's arms.

Part two, Solor seeks the solace of an opium den. Here he escapes the mortal world and soars to the world of the Shades [ bayaderes who have died for love] high in the Himalayas. The Shades descend from the heavens and accompany Nikiya who briefly meets with Solor. The dream fades. The Maharajah's envoy and soldiers find Solor and escort him back to the palace.

Part three, a grieving and drug influenced Solor agrees to the upcoming wedding. held in Government House. Edith is thrilled with the attention and seemingly unaware of a distant and morose husband. Solor mistakes a server for Nikiya and begins drinking heavily and ultimately falls into the wedding cake. He retires to his room, dreams of Nikiya and wakes to find Edith trying to seduce him. He rejects her and Edith is furious once again. Solor becomes violent and the guard is called. In the ensuing mayhem , Solor is shot and falls out of the window to his death.

The final scene Solor is reunited with Nikiya and they enter the kingdom of the Shades to be together for all time.

The performance of the lead dancers was outstanding. Nikiya , danced by Chihiro Nomura , was at her ethereal best and believable both as a young woman in love and as a Shade. Her chemistry with Solor ( Julio Blanes) was sparkling . He was a charismatic and athletic Solor. Candice Adea was wonderful as the petulant Edith and her dancing was exceptional. The corps de ballet for the most part danced very well, but weaknesses were revealed in the descent of the Shades sequence and the following ensemble piece, I have not seen quivering knees at WA Ballet performance ever before. The dance of the Golden Idol very nearly came to grief, it was incredibly demanding and at no point did the performer look in control of it.

It may seem picky but we have become accustomed to a very high standard with the WA Ballet . Petipa's ballets are known for their difficulty and brilliance [Nutcracker, Swan Lake among others] . All things considered - it was a wonderful evening's entertainment , lasting nearly 3 hours with two 20-minute intervals, a happy crowd emerged into a still warm Perth evening

**Musings from Dunsborough:** The best part of any holiday with wheels is always the fellowship and good company of the participants. Many outstanding events but I particularly enjoyed the Anzac Dawn Service.

A visit to the eagles was the highlight of the week for me.

Making my glass at the Melting Pot was a new experience with a great outcome. The Witchcliffe Eco Village offered inspiration to us all to be more sustainable in our lives with the use of community gardens , planting trees that feed us and give us good protection.

The fellowship of friends is always fun, and a learning experience thrown in is a plus. Seeing places as a passenger rather than a driver is another plus; and though I have seen some of the places before there is always something more. Having conversations at night gives greater insight into fellow travellers along with laughter. A good week. The good weather was a bonus – I'm sorry it's come to an end. Here's to other trips in the future.

Thank you very much for a lovely week

As always on any holiday with wheels we have plenty of laughs and fun. I loved the Eco Village and Eagles the most. Happy hour is good, sharing stories together and many more laughs – playing games as well. 31 cows on the streets of Cowaramup put a smile on my face each time we passed through the town. Lovely accommodation too.

**Matagarup Golf and Lunch at the Camfield** was postponed due to the possibility of strong winds, rain and storms and will be rescheduled. The weather in the Hills wasn't as dire as predicted **but it did rain** - a bit!

