



Mundaring
Community Bank® Branch



2023

DECEMBER “DAZE”

January birthdays: Many Happy Returns of the day to **Martha** (a special “0”), and **Lyn L.** We trust you each enjoy your special day and may the year that follows bring good health, happiness and contentment to both of you.

Travelling Spokes: **Dawn** took to the air to enjoy Christmas in Adelaide with a son and his family;; **Verna** was more sedate and meandered down Busselton way to enjoy Christmas overlooking Geopraphe Bay with her sister and family.; whilst **Hazel** had a lazy island Christmas break in the Blackwood River valley with her brother and his extended family.

Containers for Change: **PLEASE** do keep those bottles and cans rolling in as we didn’t ‘do’ a Bunnings sausage sizzle this year .. every little helps with costs of keeping the bus (and trailer) on the road. Special kudos to Martha who scrounged 32 bottles and cans in Martin Place after enjoying lunch with a friend in the city, and to Rosemary who collected all the containers from the Kookaburra Cinema in Sally’s absence.

wheels wandered –

Seven Sins, Roleystone: A circuitous route, winding through the hills, a tranquil and unhurried ride to Seven Sins – appropriate to the occasion greed, gluttony, sloth – which most of us could probably relate to after enjoying and being satiated with ‘mains’ including Red Empower, Pork Belly Bites, Bruschetta, then deciding ‘yes, there’s room for something sweet’ – mostly the very sugary (but to your scribes tastebuds) delicious “Eton Mess”; and who didn’t nod off on the way back over the hills? Yes, it was noisy – the restaurant was packed – and there were glitches with the drinks order, which were cheerfully remedied., staff were friendly and helpful, and the chef and Martha had a few brief words in German! We were among the last to leave, after a long and memorable ‘special lunch’.

WA Ballet – Alas, the golden glittering City of Perth engine was sans carriages and stationery, so we had to walk to His Majesty’s Theatre! for **WA Ballet’s The Nutcracker**. After relaxing with a prosecco on the newly installed balconies before the show, we were captivated from the moment the curtain opened on *Uncle Drosselmeyer*, (*Juan Carlos Osma*). Transported to a 19th century Regency ballroom on Christmas Eve, Osma was part magician, bringing marionette puppets to life, and part uncle, teasing the children mercilessly. *Carina Roberts* reprised the part of *Clara* with grace enjoyment. The talent of the child guest artists in Act I saw them included in the ballroom scene and bodes well for the future of West Australian Ballet.



As Clara's toy nutcracker came to life, the Christmas tree started magically looming above the stage. The man-sized Rats were more comical than terrifying, their swaggering, swashbuckling rampage entertaining. Act I closed with a stunning pas de deux from *Chihiro Nomura* as the *Snow Queen* whilst corps de ballet were exceptional in the technically difficult Waltz of the Snowflakes.

The sets were familiar though the costumes differed from previous years, sumptuous designs included a troupe of shiny snowflakes and a whirl of floral tutus with thousands of hand-painted sequins.

Act II whisked us to a magical kingdom of sweets and intrigue and a technicolour array of costumes for the Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabian dances. We were given another chance to see *Nomura* and *Gakuro Matsui* together, this time as the *Sugar Plum Fairy* and the *Nutcracker Prince*. Integral to The Nutcracker's charm is *Tchaikovsky's* magnificent score, performed by the *WA Philharmonic Orchestra*, conducted by *Jessica Gethin*. (adapted from a Review by Sarah Green, Australian Stage)/ The evening of dance and music was pure delight.

Heading home,, there were "oo's" and "ah's" as the bus wound through the City streets glittering with overhead golden Christmas decorations; changing colours on Council House and murals on the Cathedral walls; the malls were a riot of red, green and silver; as well as gaily decorated Christmas trees in foyers and windows of buildings.



Jarrah Celts, Kalamunda: - from Gwyneth's pen: -

The sell-out show in Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre was billed as a Scottish Ceilidh Dance (kinda like a bush dance). It was held in the beautifully restored old Agricultural Hall.

The band was joined by a uilleann pipe player straight from Ireland, so the sound was amazing at times, ballads mostly early on, the singer had a great voice and way with the fiddle.

Like us, it was a pretty old crowd, a few families with small kids, some tartan and kilts in evidence; all very sober and respectable. Things warmed up when the dancing started. The floor filled as we were instructed on the intricacies of country dancing.

Not all of us were up for it, but Sally had brought along reinforcements – her daughter and granddaughter so the Spokes were well represented. (Check out the gallery)

The stand-out dancers were a group of younger people (rumoured to be members of a swing club, should have seen that kilt swing!) and an older couple. Jarrah Celts play in pubs and clubs and at festivals so know how to keep an audience entertained. Everyone had a good if restrained time - probably more fun in a pub.



Cruise to Fremantle: Down by a third, 8 Spokes found confusion reigned at Midland Station. Trains were running, but not to timetable, technical difficulties somewhere. Detrain at Bayswater and bus to the city.. We must have looked frail as fellow passengers parted to allow our group to board the waiting bus (there were more behind): dropped at Forrest Place. Sally had discovered the easiest way to the ferry – bus to the Mounts Bay Rd bus station, Blue Cat to the jetty – we made it with time for a coffee before boarding the Captain Cook vessel to cruise to Fremantle. – no outside seating, so all viewed behind glass. The water was glassy smooth; what did we see? A couple on motorised "boogie boards" scooted past; sailing dinghies near Matilda Bay; guys fishing in shallow water near Pelican Point; millionaire homes on both sides of the river, whilst the interiors might have been sumptuous the outside were mostly architecturally 'cookie cutter' 3-storey rectangles, the occasional home drawing attention because it had curves!! Lots of pleasure craft, from the simple to the palatial; there were cormorants and darters perched on navigation poles; maybe a pair of black swans; dolphins too. Disembarking



at Victoria Quay we made our way to Fremantle Station; trains running but still not to timetable. Detrained in Perth, lunched under the spreading Morten Bay fig tree at Pica Bar; then train to Midland, arriving back up the hill close to 4 o'clock – an adventurous day, not for the faint-hearted!



Monet in Paris was a spellbinding journey through the world of French Impressionism, featuring the works of mostly Claude Monet, but also Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro, Paul Cezanne, Edgar Degas and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, ingeniously brought to life through state-of-the-art multi-sensory technology.. In a rich, dynamic display of light, colour and sound, the masterpieces come to life on an enormous scale, accompanied by a magnificent musical score.

The sheer scale of the work is stunning and in many ways highlights the essence of impressionism, with the inexact and imprecise collection of brushstrokes showcased and exaggerated when projected on the massive screens. The use of light, colour and sound is extraordinary. Even the floor and ceilings formed part of the art, with cobblestones giving way to babbling brooks and butterflies.

One felt transported to the beautiful French countryside of Giverny or bohemian Paris, seeing the poppies with Monet, or drinking coffee in a cafe with Degas. The overall effect is almost that of 3-D, with the technology bringing subtle movement to the otherwise still works, and the wonderful use of music completing the experience.

With its stunning collection of over 800 French Impressionist artworks, immersive atmosphere, and Parisian-inspired food and drink, it's an exhibition that's not to be missed



Home movie – from **Hazel's** pen - : Our home movie for December was **'The Noel Diary'** starring Justin Hartley and Essence Atkins. It was directed by Paul Evans. The Netflix film is based on a book by Paul Evans.

Whilst clearing out his childhood home following the death of his mother a novelist meets a woman searching for her birth mother. Amongst his mother's possessions he discovers a diary which may provide the answers. The film tackles family estrangement, childhood death, adoption and relationships. It was a real tear jerker. The kind of movie best watched at home as at the end tears were freely flowing.

Sally and Ray's home was decorated for Christmas and the table set for a festive lunch. We had turkey and chicken accompanied with fresh garden salad and a delicious potato salad made by Rosemary. To finish the meal we had Christmas pudding. And, there were 'bubbles' too. We all donned our paper hats and read the usual cracker jokes. A big thank you to Sally and Ray for their hospitality



End of year Party: At one stage it seemed as though number might be halved ..that didn't happen, and 18 Spokes gathered in Sculpture Park to farewell 2023 – with food, drinks and happy conversation. Sally (struck down with C.... that morning) managed to stack the bus with food, drinks, wrapped gifts for those who forgot - and chairs (and unpack on return) for Cheryl to ferry to Mundaring. Special thanks to Annette and Gwyn who set up the party atmosphere and provided extra tables, plates and cutlery (no plastic plates or wooden knives and forks for us!) and who, with Cheryl, barbecued the fish. Thanks too to all those who provided all the salads, which made for very colourful and tasty meal. For "afters" Annette headed home again and returned with warm Christmas pudding and custard. We were chivvied to gather round the long table to sit or stand to play Swap -or- Steal the Parcel – after some confusion caused by your scribe, Lyn Y. MC'd the proceedings and the game got underway. The gifts at my end of the table that changed hands the most were the Nutcracker figurine and the elegant mosquito coils! Folk at the other end of the table were more subdued but coveted gifts changed hands down there too. Darkness was closing in after 7 when the last gift was unwrapped and there was a flurry and scurry to pack up and leave the park as pristine as we found it.



And on the 8th day, God created Seniors.

Seniors never get enough exercise.

In His wisdom, God decreed that a senior become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find, as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older

- #9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- #8 Life is sexually transmitted.
- #7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- #6 Men have two motivations: hunger and hanky-panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- #5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- #4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- #3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- #2 In the '60s, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- #1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

Please share this wisdom with others; I need to go to the bathroom.