



Mundaring
Community Bank® Branch



2021

DECEMBER DALLIANCES!

January birthdays: Greetings to **Martha**, and **Lyn L.** May you both enjoy Many Happy Returns of the day and good health and happiness in the year ahead.

Annual General Meeting: 17 Spokes in attendance, with 6 apologies. The Committee remains virtually unchanged - Sally (Chair/Treasurer/Activities Co-ordinator), Hazel, Gwyn, Annette, Helen (Min.Sec.), Cheryl (Vice Chair), Lyn Y. and Rosemary (Hon.Sec.). Linda did not renominate, and we thank her for her contribution in 2021. Steph spoke of the importance of having a **Medi Alert-type bracelet or pendant, to summon help** in the event of a fall or other untoward event. Accidents happen and if you're incapacitated and can't reach a phone, who can help? Following the meeting we enjoyed a Sundowner in balmy conditions by the Lake, till the sun started to slowly sink below the trees signalled time to pack up before the gates closed.

Spokes on the move: **Jenny** caravanned down Bunbury way for a few days R & R; **Linda** headed east to spend Christmas with family and was not sure when she'll be back!

Battling the blues: To those who continue to 'battle on' with debilitating health issues (continuing or intermittent) we admire your courage and fortitude and send our good wishes to each of you - Jenny, Lyndall, Margaret, Annette, Carolyne, Ken and David come to mind.

Kookaburra table: We 'launched' the installation of wheels table dedicated to "the memory of past members" on Sunday, 18 December at the screening of Love is Love is Love - we didn't break the bottle of bubbles, we drank it.

Containers for change: Keep those cans and bottles rattling in! We continue to be surprised ... for the five months to end of November \$978.30 has been collected - so a hearty 'thank you' to all those who walk the roadsides, scavenge in shopping centres, park and/or roadside recycling bins, have parties or just add the odd can or bottle - every eligible container helps and keeps the environment cleaner too. Thanks too to Ray who sorts through the bags taking caps from bottles before they're binned for collection.

wither wheels wandered:

Black Swan - That Shakespeare Play - (from Gwynneth's pen): The Tempest - Earlier in the year subscribers were given the opportunity to vote for which Shakespeare play they wanted performed. They chose The Tempest, considered the most difficult of Shakespeare's plays to stage. Black Swan chose the Octagon Theatre at UWA for their presentation. We were drawn in immediately as we entered the space with the whole cast singing sea chanties as they moved around the stage and amongst the audience.

The Octagon's thrust stage ensures that the set must be minimalist: white sand (perfect for lighting effects), an open tear-shaped pit, crescent tiers at the back. The costumes were equally basic, quite modern, but each character's status clearly defined from the formal suits of the court to Miranda's shorts and Caliban's bare torso, together with bits "borrowed" from the audience.

The story begins with Prospero, the deposed Duke of Milan, and magician, explaining to his daughter how they came to be on the island with only a spirit and the enslaved witch-born, Caliban.

Meanwhile, with magic and the assistance of Ariel, Prospero has engineered an apparent shipwreck of the vessel carrying his enemies, his sister Antonia who deposed him (of course, his brother in the original; several characters have changed gender for the purpose of this production) and Alonso, King of Naples, who helped her. The people on board are all safe but scattered in small groups around the island believing that the others have drowned. The wreck is an elaborate plot to have revenge for Prospero's betrayal.

And so, it goes. Miranda and Ferdinand, the king's son, meet and fall in love, engineered by Prospero and Ariel. In the end all are reunited, Prospero's dukedom is restored, he forgives his enemies, the lovers marry and Ariel is freed from bondage. To we modern audience, it is Caliban's unresolved plight that niggles.

The play was short and the director (Matt Edgerton) kept it fast moving dispensing with various nymphs and goddesses in the marriage scene, instead, screening musings on love and partnering, filmed of audience members as they arrived.

The plot lacks the insight into his characters of the other plays, but is an engaging yarn despite all problems being resolved by magic. The music was wonderful, including those actors who doubled as musicians. Pavan Kumar Hari was a standout - musical director, Ariel and onstage musician. (Apparently a director, dancer and composer also, and a local!). One complaint was that not every actor could be clearly heard, even by the young ring-in in our group.

To Alfred's Kitchen on the way home for much anticipated sustenance in front of the open fire - December indeed.

Garrick Theatre - (from Richard's pen): We met, as usual, at Sculpture Park for the short drive to the Garrick Theatre in Guildford to enjoy the wonderful pantomime, **Treasure Island**. From the very first moment it was a rollicking, funny and joyous evening: a very humorous performance. The music and choreography enabled the young actors to strut their stuff, dancing and singing with professional aplomb. Fiona Forster as Polly the cheeky parrot, a wonderful villain in Long John Silver (Rob McDonnell) trying to outwit to the fabulous Dame, Mother Hawkins (Gavin Crane), the Squire (Ken Harris) who were all vying to find the magical pot of gold, aided by a gang of pirates and the ladies of the Smugglers Cover Women's Institute, who went buccaneering for a lark. We enjoyed every minute of a fabulous show and look forward to their next offering

WA Trails event at Yanchep...WooHoo!!! (from Cheryl's pen): If you weren't there you missed an exciting event. Eleven wheelies helped WA Trails to conduct a walk/run for 600-700 runners! Pretty amazing!! Sally, Rosemary, Sandra, Hazel, Annette, Lyn Y, Steph, Cheryl and Laurence drove to Yanchep in the afternoon prior to the event so we could enjoy the National Park before bed. We walked a little and enjoyed dinner at Yanchep Inn. Our units overlooked the lake, with the lawn in front full of kangaroos and joeys and birds. Lovely first thing in the morning too!! We had to be on duty at 5.45 so we saw it!! David and Caroline drove up in the morning and joined us at 6.15 or thereabouts.

We were spread over numerous tasks for the next 5 hours - registering participants, giving them their numbers, etc, handing out t shirts to those who registered for the full series of events this coming summer and registered early, manning intersections of the course, cutting up watermelon and filling containers with punch and/or water, handing out medals to finishers, taking off very sweaty belts and separating the numbers, plus.... The atmosphere made the whole experience memorable. There were a couple of grumpy campers - blunt knives, blisters and sticky surfaces but, overall, we were happy. And we earned a small donation for our help too.

Please join us next time the 3rd July at Brigadoon, a later start of 7am and finishing at 12pm RSVP

Tuesday movie in the City: Lunch first from the food court in Raine Square before heading upstairs to the theatre and an upgrade to "Premium". The engrossing documentary **"The Lost Leonardo"** is part art critique, part industry tell-all, with a good amount of crime caper and political intrigue thrown in for good measure. The story starts with a painting found in New Orleans by Alexander Parish, who is what the art world calls a "sleeper hunter" — someone who finds works that may be more valuable than advertised. Parish talks to art dealer, Robert Simon, and together they buy the work for \$1,175. The painting, called "Salvator Mundi" ("Saviour of the World"), depicts Jesus, in a Renaissance-era tunic, holding his right hand up in an apparent sign of blessing. There's plenty of damage and past attempts at "restoration." When well know art restorer Dianne Modestini, starts working on the painting she thinks it's from someone trying to emulate Leonardo's style, then she finds something which makes her think it really is a painting by the Master, Leonardo da Vinci. What follows, as Danish documentarian Andreas Koefoed reveals, is a yarn that goes from London's National Gallery to the shadowy system of so-called "freeport" tax havens, from the world's most prestigious auction houses to The Louvre, as the value of the painting soars to \$450 million. The cast of characters included a profiteering Swiss businessman, an angry Russian oligarch, an FBI agent, and the crown prince of Saudi Arabia. Is this multi-million-dollar painting by Leonardo or do certain power players simply want it to be?

The Kiosk, Floreat Beach: Are we there yet? Sometimes and longest way round turns out to be the shortest! It was a warmish, sunny day, a gentle zephyr of a breeze (it got stronger), just right for enjoying the sun and sea. The Kiosk, a large shed-like building, was buzzing. It has outdoor seating on a terrace too, and inside, behind a curved wall of glass, tables were arranged like segments of an orange, so that those seated had a great view of the ocean (no backs to the view). The lunch menu wasn't overlarge, but a goodly selection to suit all tastes - carnivorous, gluten free, vegetarian and vegan - no-one went hungry. Orders placed at the bar, we were soon chatting and sipping and didn't have overlong to wait before our generous, artistically presented selections arrived. We enjoyed a couple of convivial hours eating, sipping, chatting and enjoying the view, before heading homewards - the long way round!

Fundraising Sausage sizzle, Bunnings: To all those who helped - the onion peelers and cutters on Friday; on Saturday, the early risers at Chidlow at 6am to collect sausages and cool drinks, and all those who helped from 7am onwards to 5pm (later for Sally who returned the trailer to Chidlow) - a grateful 'thank you' for ensuring the event was worthwhile. It was a coolish day - praise be said those closest to the heat of the bbq - so not so many drinks sold as last year; maybe we might try bread instead of rolls in 2022 - easier, quicker and cheaper! To each and every one who lent a hand, once again, thank you.

City Lights: Our favoured parking spot on the corner of Hay and William Streets was free. A short stroll to Murray Street Mall for a dazzling, glittering silver and red fairyland of lights amongst the green of the trees - a huge Christmas Tree with a multitude of brightly packaged 'presents' entranced little people and their families - wandered up a well found laneway to Hay Street to the golden glitter of chains of lights dangling from the City of Perth Library building; it was still too light for the kaleidoscope on St George's Cathedral, so we wandered across and admired the golden kangaroos on the grass of the Perth City Council Building, before heading back to the gold enhanced Hay Street Mall, with a glittering and bright multi-coloured Santa standing tall to one side. On the bus and back to the Terrace and the Cathedral (should we be parked here?) - a fairly quick stop to admire the changing scenery on the Cathedral walls - nativity, beach and bush, city and country, animals peeping from unexpected places, dogs on leads, bikes and scooters, everyday life really ... the Council buildings too cascaded from top to bottom in green and red waves of colour. More golden highlights down by the river and Elizabeth Quay, not easily accessible with road detours in place. To Northbridge and a slow crawl down James Street, a wall of lights at the Plaza, more golden kangaroos in the Cultural precinct - then away from the glitter, heading back to the hills - a stop at Alfred's for a mug of pea and ham soup - an unexpected detour down Lionel Road - and yes, a house and garden was festooned with a myriad of lights, colourful figures and animals, so a 'wheelie' was in order, before back to the highway and to home up the hill.

Home movie (from Hazel's pen)... We congregated as usual at Osmond Glen to watch the home movie, **Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence**. In this captivating World War II drama from Nagisa Oshima, David Bowie regally embodied Celliers - a British Officer interned by the Japanese as a POW. Ryuichi Sakamoto (who also composed the film's hypnotic score) plays the Camp Commander obsessed with the mysterious blond major, while Tom Conti is the British Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence, who tries to bridge the emotional and language divides between captors and prisoner. This film is a multilayered and brutal tale of cultural clash ...not a very Merry Christmas tale. Afterwards we retired to the decorated verandah, where we were joined by Ray to enjoy lunch - a tasty chicken salad followed by mince pie, cream and custard. All the delicious vegetables were fresh from the garden - what a treat! Thank you, once again, Sally and Ray for your wonderful hospitality.

End of Year Party: Heatwave conditions closed National Parks and Dam picnic areas forcing the postponement of the 'end of year' celebration to Wednesday, 12 January - same time, same place - if you have booked, see you there COVID and weather permitting!