



Mundaring
Community Bank® Branch



2022

JANUARY JUNKETS!

February birthdays: The storks must have been working overtime finding cabbage patches in both hemispheres! Many Happy Returns and best wishes for health and happiness in the year ahead to **Rosemary, Meg, Brenda, Lily (Congratulations on a "0" year), Verna, Mary, Leonie and Gwyn.**

Travelling Spokes: **Mary**, with her daughter, delighted in the cooler weather of Albany; **Hazel** and **Rosemary** based in Dunsborough wandered hither and thither; whilst, **Linda**, still on the t'other side, trekked up Mt Kosciusko to see the sun rise!

Feeling the blues: To all those not in the best of health, we trust the heatwave was not too enervating and that you are all travelling okay. Take extra care in these unpredictable times.

Covid: If you don't have a digital copy of your Covid status, **PLEASE** remember to have a hard copy with you from your GP or pharmacy for entry to all 'third party' venues, i.e., cafes, galleries, theatre, etc. **A digital copy or a 'hard copy' with an Australian and/or West Australian logo is preferred for some venues, though not compulsory.**

wither wheels wandered:

Lake walk and breakfast: Twice abandoned because of Lake closures and soaring temperatures - rescheduled for Friday, 4 February, if the weather gods co-operate - bus leaves Mundaring at 7.30am, **if** you are making your own way please let Sally know.

Classic Book Club's book of the month: **The History of the Adventures of Joseph Andrews and of His Friend Mr. Abraham Adams**, by Henry Fielding, published in 1742, was written as a reaction against Samuel Richardson's novel Pamela: or Virtue Rewarded (1740). In his novel Fielding portrays Joseph Andrews as the brother of Pamela Andrews, the heroine of Richardson's novel. In her own history, Pamela is continually pursued for her attractiveness and preserves her virtue with great effort; Fielding puts her imaginary brother in a similar position as he improbably maintains his innocence despite being literally pulled into bed by every woman he encounters, from the baroness to the chambermaid. The title page explains that this is also a tribute to *Don Quixote* and Joseph and his equally virtuous sweetheart Fanny are joined by the forgetful and hapless Parson Abraham Adams. The three wander the countryside traveling from London to their home village, getting themselves in and out of a string of escapades and slapstick brawls. The tale gets a bit disjointed as one improbable comedy vignette piles onto the next, but an overall story of conflict and resolution emerges via a climax of changed identities, foundling babies and the like. Finally, virtue is rewarded not only with true love and a happy marriage, but the modest central characters are revealed to be higher-born than they thought and financial ease also follows!

The Two Marys - Fringe Festival, Midland Junction Arts Centre - from Gwyneth's pen: What a privilege to see the world premiere of this remarkable piece of theatre, developed in Midland of all places!

"An ensemble development process led by playwright and director Suzanne Ingelbrecht to create a masquerade of storytelling, music and gothic romance, based on a true story featuring Frankenstein creator Mary Shelley and her friend, the writer, Mary Diana Dods." Midland Junction Arts Centre

Being female, husbandless and poor is no place for a woman in 19th Century Britain. This is the fate of Mary Shelley and her friend of Mary Diana Dods, illegitimate daughter of a Scottish earl. Mary Shelley depends upon Shelley's father's reluctant support for her and her son after Shelley's death; Mary Dods on her father's less than generous allowance. The Marys devise a plot to rescue a young, pregnant, unmarried Isabella by having Mary Dods pose as Sir Walter Sholto Douglas and marry her. The couple escape to France but Mary is abandoned and ends up in a debtor's prison.

The finale is violent and confronting – where does fact end and imagination take over? No happy ending here I'm afraid. There are no props and no set, the intermittent music and stark black and white stylised projections evoke the mood of the few scenes, and the costume changes denote Mary Dods's status. (Good designer, poor seamstress – Mary Shelley's sleeve was torn off.)

The Junction is a great for intimate theatre. Those old school halls had wonderful acoustics.

The acting is brilliant, particularly Shirley Van Sanden as Dods, - went down that rabbit hole to find that she is a writer, director, producer, puppeteer... from Perth.

The play is certainly different and thought provoking; was Dods's gender bending more prevalent than we believe? Like other women, she wrote as a man to get her work published. Enjoyed it and would have loved to discuss it further.

Bonus: The Junction Gallery Toy Stories

Artists, hobbyists, regional museums, and community groups showcase contemporary and historic toys handmade in Western Australia from the early 1920s to today. Particularly liked the woollen figures inspired by Tibetan painting and statues for a community group in Tibet to emulate because the artist can't be there in person now. From naïve to sophisticated, the exhibition is a lot of fun.

Lunch at Lavender Bistro and Boutique, West Swan - A quaint café/restaurant that serves a small menu, nothing over \$25, but something for every taste, presented with French flair - service was helpful and friendly, especially by our waiter. The boutique featured lavender products, beauty, fragrances balms and more. A relaxed couple of hours - good company, good food - in pleasant surroundings - we didn't sample the restaurant's sweet delights, opting for a stop at Midland Ice-creamery instead!

Twilight Tunes, Sculpture Park - a Shire of Mundaring summer offering - and late addition to the programme.

A small coterie of Spokes gathered to listen to a solo Ben Buller and his guitar entertain with mellow old favourites and melodies of his own; followed by a mini version of the evergreen Mucky Duck Bush Band playing their toe tapping folk tunes. Towards the end of the evening young and old and in-between members of the audience were cajoled to take to 'the floor' - lots of laughter, tangled arms, legs, and feet as folk tried to remember what they'd been taught. A light-hearted finale to the evening - a shame the event wasn't better supported.

Home movie - from Hazel's pen: Sally and Ray very kindly hosted the home movie on Australia Day. **Oddball** (2015) is the true story of an eccentric chicken farmer, played by Shane Jacobson, who trained his mischievous Maremma dog Oddball to protect a fairy penguin sanctuary from being decimated by fox attacks - less than 10 penguins, no sanctuary. The movie took place in the Victorian seaside town of Warrnambool and nearby Middle Island. There were a few laughs, romance and a heart-warming ending.

When we retired to the verandah, we were surprised by a three-course lunch prepared by Sally in honour of Australia Day. She had decorated the table with Australian flag tablecloths and we were treated to freshly made meat pies. What a treat!

(2020 - latest count 70-100 penguins, and up to 7 dogs help guard the Island).

The first day needing proof of vaccination to enter Boola Bardip was a learning curve for the 'gatekeepers' and ourselves; eventually all was well!

Beyond the Milky Way was a wow experience - provided with 3D glasses, chairs that swivelled, we had a 360-degree view of the skies and countryside where the Square Kilometre Array Observatory is being built on part of the 3,500 sq. kilometres that make up Boolardy Station, in the Murchison. Guided by scientists, experts, and Wajarri Yamaji people, the traditional owners of the region and descendants of some of the world's first astronomers, we saw the skies from a new perspective. Some folk saw shooting stars, others found a satellite, as we were immersed in the immensity of the Milky Way - millions and millions of stars, galaxies, black holes, glittering above and around us. Being transported into the inside of a telescope dish was a weird experience. When completed the Low SKA in Australia and the Mid SKA in the Karoo Desert in South Africa will allow radio astronomers to 'look back' to the beginning of the universe billions of years ago. We heard but did not wholly understand!

(When complete the Low SKA will consist of an array of 131,072 "Christmas tree" shaped antennas, each grouped in 512 stations with 256 antennas. Some will be placed in the centre and the rest in three spiral arms stretching 65 kilometres end to end, operating at frequencies between 50 and 350 MHz. The Mid-SKA will comprise an array of 197 dish antennas, 15 metres in diameter with 150 kilometres separating the two most distant dishes - operating between 350 MHz and 14GHz)