



Mundaring  
Community Bank® Branch



2024

# NOVEMBER NOTES

VALE – Doreen Palmer 23.11.36 to 4.11.24. Always willing to lend a hand, share a laugh, join us on holidays and activities – she loved the ballet - Doreen was a much loved member of wheels from 2011 to 2019. Sadly, her health deteriorated, and her family placed her in care at William Carey Lodge at Broadwater (Busselton). Wheels and individual members continued to visit and take her on outings when in the area, but her increasing frailty precluded even that connection for the last couple of years. Seven of us, together with family and friends, recently said farewell at her funeral service in Midland.

**December birthdays:** Many Happy Returns to **Anne** and **Dale** - may the year ahead bring good health, joy and contentment to you both. Kick up your heels and enjoy your special days.

**Welcome to wheels:** Another Spoke in the wheel. A warm welcome to Dale from Aveley – we trust you enjoy the ride and look forward to meeting you sometime soon – well, in the New Year after that knee replacement op.

**Spokes on the Move:** Catching up with family **Glenise** flew off to Sydney/Wollongong, whilst Glen Forest **Barbara** headed to cooler climes to Burnie in Tassie; **Gwyneth** stayed closer to home, venturing to Geraldton for a few days.

**Sculpture Park Intergenerational Art Project (aka Totem Poles) As part of the Intergenerational :** At very short notice 11 of us gathered at Hilltop Grove to hear Jenny Kerr, facilitator, give us an update on the project and to meet Jason Maxlow, the artist chosen to create the work. He presented some sketches of ideas and showed slides of some of his portfolio of work. He currently is enthusiastic about found three trunks and stumps, combined with steel. Jenny sought comments from those present and the consensus seemed to be something in wood, preferably with reference to the flora and fauna of the hills, neither of which were part of his repertoire. As part of the intergenerational involvement on . From **Cheryl's** pen - On 21<sup>st</sup> October Sally, Cheryl and Laurence together with Jenny Kerr Jason Maxlow and Eric McCrum conducted a workshop for a group of Indigenous students and some staff at Mundaring Primary School. Jason chatted to the children, then showed a selection of his art works and spoke about the materials and techniques used in their production. Then he opened his Treasure Box, producing pieces of tree bark, skulls of a tiny cat, cockatoo and magpie which he described as “gross” appealing to the kids of course. After a break the students spent time drawing and using natural powders made from resins and charcoal to draw what took their eye from the items on display. Jenny had added a beautiful selection of nuts and seeds. Then it was Eric's turn to show his slides of the minibeasts of the forest. He commands attention as soon as he speaks. Their eyes widened and although some of them continued to draw and fill in, they were focused on what he was saying. Jason left with a bundle of drawings!! The School had done a very noteworthy job of organizing this session, freeing up the students and staff and generally welcoming us.



**Reminder** - wheels AGM at Lake Leschenaultia on **Friday, 13 December at 4.30 pm** followed by a **Sundowner** – bring a plate of festive finer food to share. Wine, beer, cider orange juice provided – see you there!

**wheels wandered:**

**Jones' garden, Kalamunda:** We were warned it would be steep, and it was, despite this it was fairly easy to get around on paved and/or well maintained gravel paths. From the gate it was down to the winter creek - just the odd small pools of water - then up the other side to where the rammed earth house surveyed the valley. There wasn't a lot of colour, being a green oasis with trees, eucalypts and exotic, palms, of various shapes and sizes, ferns, shrubs – Callistemons, Nandinas and busfelsia's,. The paths wound round and in and out of the greenery, whimsical water features trickling and plonking amongst the greenery. Irises and roses added colour. A veggie garden and fruit trees were up behind the house. Some folk ventured to the steepest part of the block and discovered huge granite boulders amongst the bush. There was time for a cuppa and cake before heading back to the other side of the hills.



**High Tea – Chapels on Whatley:** White tablecloth, sparkling glasses, gleaming silverware and "olde worlde" teapots (3) and place settings augured well. Each teapot served a third of the table, and each would be filled three times, each time with a different tea so lots of discussion on what to try – I don't think anyone chose lady Grey or English Breakfast, most had exotic sounding names, with descriptions to match. We chatted and drank and nibbled our way through cucumber and cream cheese sandwiches, scones, conserve and whipped cream, another brew of tea, mini smoked salmon bun, another brew of tea, two, three tiered plates with savouries and sweet treats – no idea what the savouries were and, though cold the fillings were hot and hotter! The sweet treats included not very fresh mini lemon meringue, chocolate eclairs, various flavoured macrons and rocky road. The staff were pleasant and looked after us well; the proprietress asked for feedback and probably wished she hadn't – we cater better and fresher for High Tea at Barbara's home in Pauls Valley!

**Train to Yanchep:** Perth to Yanchep, 15 stations, 54.5ks, 49 minutes. Mundaring – bus/train 34ks, 63 mins. Having negotiated the 500 metres to the Underground we didn't have long to wait for a train – longer than those on the Midland line and seating going forward and back and side too – same comfort (or lack thereof) – we relaxed and took in the sights – freeway, rooftops, soundwalls, pockets of bush, more than pockets after Joondalup – we're concerned about losing 60,000 trees at North Stoneville, there's a lot more bush to loose on the northern line, build it and they will come was the experience of a senior traveller now living at Butler. Just after we arrived at Yanchep Station (in the middle of nowhere) the next train to Perth departed from the opposite platform, revealing the murals painted by Jack Bromell, which depict local flora and fauna such as banksia and tuart tree leaves, Carnaby's Black Cockatoos and kangaroos. The colours are muted, and derive from Yanchep's

reefs, lagoon, limestone cliffs, and wetlands. The opposite wall was obscured by the train we'd arrived in and waiting to depart – we walked its length peering through the windows for a glimpse of the work on walls there. I'm not sure anyone looked up but there's a ceiling piece by Penelope Forlano of "hanging elements representing stalactites" from Yanchep's caves. And whilst Annette walked the length of the platform, we didn't go upstairs so missed the paintings on the underside of the entrance's shade canopies. We broke our journey home at Joondalup for coffee and cake in the Lakeside Shopping Centre, no road to cross, just a short "courtyard" walk from the station to a cafe. An interesting excursion to an arear unfamiliar to most of us.





**Black Swan Theatre at Subiaco Arts Centre - From a review in Arts Hub by Tiffany Barton** --- Kate Mulvany's autobiographical play *The Seed* had its first iteration in 2004. She had just returned from a trip to Nottingham to spend time with her Irish family when she was offered a commission to write a play. She was in the process of discovering that the serious health problems that had plagued her since infancy were a direct result of her father's exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. *The Seed* was planted, and a brilliant new West Australian play was about to bloom.

This 2024 production with a freshly tweaked script weaves together excellent writing with mostly solid performances, evocative multimedia by Jessica Russell and strong direction by Matt Edgerton to create a taut and surprisingly funny family drama. It is a story that is as pertinent and relevant today as it was 20 years ago and is made all the more poignant by the inclusion of Mulvany's sister Tegan in the role of Rose.

The plot revolves around a family reunion. It's Guy Fawkes Day and Danny (Steve Turner) travels from Australia to Nottingham in England with his daughter Rose (Tegan Mulvany) to meet her Irish grandfather Brian (Geoff Kelso) for their shared birthday. Rose is a journalist, and full of questions for her grandfather – a hard talking IRA sympathiser/activist who appears to be still very much involved in the cause.

Brian's dialogue is superbly crafted and Kelso's execution of his character was poetry in motion – he strutted the stage, throwing down hilariously acerbic lines while dominating his traumatised son and confused granddaughter. He played the old rebel Brian with obvious relish, great command and hilarious comic timing. Rose vacillated between being drawn in by her grandfather's rough charm and repelled by his brutal honesty, casual violence and lawlessness. His behaviour is outrageous; he's a charismatic bully who insists on dragging his jetlagged son and granddaughter to the pub, tries to give them drugs he claims his other sons are selling and also attempts to enlist Rose in the nefarious 'family business'.

His son Danny is a broken man. He's a shell of his former self and intensely uneasy in his father's presence. Rose hovers over him during a 'white out' brought on by his father's bullying, and we learn of the harrowing experience of cancer she experienced during her early childhood.

Turner's portrayal of Danny is a sensitive and nuanced portrait of a war veteran with PTSD. His face and body convey an intense inner struggle, and his fearful response to his domineering father is heartbreaking to witness. Mulvany has moments of strength as Rose. Her opening scene with Turner is powerful and captivating, and she launches the narrative with confidence. Later she delivers Rose's comedic lines with a sly, subtle humour and also finds a touching vulnerability and humanity in her character.

*The Seed* is an important Australian play. It was born from a lived experience of the horrific intergenerational legacy of war and is steeped in the complexity of deep familial love and the secrets and lies that threaten to unravel that love.

This production is everything one looks for in great Australian theatre. It had tremendous emotional affect, an acute sense of social justice, compassionately drawn characters and a wicked ear for great dialogue.

**Seniors' Community Connection Event** – sponsored by the Shire of Mundaring. wheels' bus was stationed at the front door of the Hub; there were stalls inside and out, back and front as well as activities inside and free light refreshments were available, eat in or take away. Participants included aged care providers, some we knew and some we didn't; Shire libraries; hearing tests; indoor bowls and exercise classes. It wasn't quite preaching to the converted as people trickled rather than surged in and out and stopped to just look or have a chat. Thanks to Sally for bringing the bus and staying all morning and to Frances, Hazel, Annette, Lyn and Rosemary who flew the flag. Spokes who dropped by to say hello included Julie and Glen, Anne and Gavin and Lyndell. – apologies to anyone I've missed, helpers or passers by!

**Britz & Pieces at the Swan Italian Club: (from Sally's pen)** The cavernous hall was packed, with a small space for a dance floor in front of the stage. it was never left empty and sometimes heaved, no space for 'real' dancers to strut their stuff. An excellent night a brilliant band, 2 superb vocalists, 2 guitarists, a drummer and a keyboard player who Meg thought was one of the best. They played songs from the UK mostly: Gerry & the Pacemakers, (You'll Never Walk Alone; Ferry Across the Mersey) The Kinks, The Beatles, Dusty Springfield (Son of a Preacher Man, I Only Want to be with You) and many more. Thanks to Annette who did the shopping and preparation of the nibbles we enjoyed with our chosen Beveridge. We danced and sang the night away and very nearly turned into pumpkins we were so late.

**Classic Book Club – Can You Forgive Her by , Anthony Trollope.** After 850 pages, with sheer exhaustion, we just had to forgive her! Trollope inextricably binds together the issues of parliamentary election and marriage, of politics and privacy. The values and aspirations of the governing stratum of Victorian society are ruthlessly examined and none remain unscathed. Alice Vavasor cannot decide whether to marry her ambitious but violent cousin George or the upright and gentlemanly John Grey - and finds herself accepting and rejecting each of them in turn. Increasingly confused about her own feelings and unable to forgive herself for such vacillation, her

situation is contrasted with that of her friend Lady Glencora - forced to marry the rising politician Plantagenet Palliser so as to prevent the worthless Burgo Fitzgerald, whom she passionately loved, from wasting her vast fortune. The story focuses on the predicament of women. 'What should a woman do with her life?' asks Alice of herself, and this theme is echoed by every other woman in the novel, from the uncomfortably married Lady Glencora to the coquettish Mrs Greenow and Alice's cousin, Kate, who contrives to bring Alice and George together again.

**Home Movie – Going in Style** - As one reviewer said “Purely made to get a few good chuckles out of the audience who are probably all around the same age as these characters. .... We meet Willie (Morgan Freeman), Joe (Michael Caine), and Albert (Alan Arkin), three retirees who have settled into a somewhat comfortable rut. They're all collecting pensions from a steel company, and they spend their days playing bocce ball, hanging out at a diner and drinking lousy coffee, and mingling with buddies at the local senior centre. All is not perfect, however, when Joe discovers his bank has screwed him over on his mortgage, and his payments are tripling by 300%. Things get worse. Willie's health is failing, and he desperately needs a new kidney. Albert, a former jazz saxophonist, is barely making ends meet by providing music lessons. The guys need money. It seems that all is lost when their former employer shuts down and their pensions are phased out. But, in a shockingly convenient turn of events, the very same bank that Joe uses also happens to control the pension fund. Inspiration strikes while Joe is at his bank negotiating his mortgage when a team of robbers strike the bank and clean the place out. How hard can it be to successfully rob a bank, anyway? Joe seems to think it'll be a snap and convinces his pals that they can pull off their own heist. They'll keep exactly the amount of money owed for their pensions, then donate the rest. Joe can keep his house, Willie can get a new kidney, and Albert can romance the flirty Annie (Ann-Margret). All they need to do is get away with it”.....and they all lived happily ever after, and we did chuckle – a bit! It was very pleasant enjoying our fish and chip lunch on the back verandah at 35 Osmond Glen – with thanks again to Sally and Ray for sharing their home for our enjoyment.

**Marloo Theatre - Mother Goose on the Loose** - We met the characters of Nursery Rhyme Land: Old King Cole, Old Mother Hubbard, the Old Woman who lived in a shoe, Little Miss Muffet, Little Boy Blue, Little Bo Peep plus six more. There was singing, dancing and lots of pies but not all jolly fun, because not every nursery rhyme garden is safe....

Written and directed by Taneal Thompson, *Mother Goose on the Loose* sketched the content of the chosen nursery rhymes to loosely connect them together. Loosey Goosey (a colourfully costumed Gavin Crane) orchestrated the evening's performance. With twelve nursery rhymes, to list all the principal characters would fill a page – the wicked ones were Peter, the Pumpkin Eater (Clayton van Dijk) who kept his wife locked in an oversized pumpkin making pumpkin pies and Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary (Candice Preston) who gleefully and skilfully used an oversized net, to abduct maidens for her garden. The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe (Susan Mickle) with her eight children helped fill the chorus line! The audience hissed and booed when the baddies appeared though didn't cheer or clap the goodies till they took their bow at the end of the evening! We were there on opening night and there were some rough edges and wooden performances – the joy de vivo went missing somewhere! We wondered too how many of the young folk knew the words to the nursery rhymes, as we oldies had to dig deep to remember some, which may have left them mystified as to the action on stage.

**WA Symphony Orchestra** – I've always associated Brahms with lullabies but no one would have been asleep in the Concert Hall when WASO', under Principal Conductor Ascher Fisch, treated concert goers to a programme entitled **Brahm's Triumph which was** headed by a short piece e **Academic Festival Overture** “With a masterful balance of serious and light-hearted elements, the emphasis is on the “festival” rather than the “academic” in an overture that brims with an irrepressible sense of fun. The work also sports the most extravagant orchestral forces the composer ever employed. Brahms himself described the piece as “a very boisterous potpourri of student songs.” The Overture has been one of Brahms' most often played works ever since the composer himself conducted the premiere in Breslau on January 4, 1881 Then followed **Symphony No 4** and “for his final essay in symphonic form, Brahms produced a monumental work whose first movement grows from the simplest of materials, a simple rising and falling interval, out of which he develops long lines of powerfully emotional, yet un sentimental grandeur. The relentless organic development, which begins even as themes are being stated, leads to a complex interaction of motives and melodic fragments. What makes the music so compelling may be the way the longer lines ebb and flow with great urgency and lyrical beauty, while at the same time the contrapuntal complexities lend substance and richness to the texture.” A fitting end to morning symphonies at the concert Hall till who knows when as he 2025 series is mostly at the Heath Ledger Centre in Northbridge while the Concert Hall receives a facelift. As a change from pub grub, we enjoyed lunch at the Lucky Chinese Restaurant in Midvale, before heading up the hill.