

COMMUNITY
LIFE IN THE
**TOWN OF
CLAREMONT**

ISSUE 17 /
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Flourish



SUMMER 2023/24

SWEET SOPRANO SOUNDS

Opera singer Elena Perroni joins
WASO for A Night on Bay View

MURAL ART MENTORSHIP

A public art opportunity
for 18–25 year olds

RECYCLE YOUR RIDE

Claremont Men's Shed
doing their bit for Bicycles
for Humanity

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Mayor's welcome

Our vision is to be a connected, flourishing, and sustainable community. These three words overarchingly guide the work we do: from waste collection and recycling to road renewal and community funding.

The Town's funding program has continued to support community groups, providing opportunities for individuals to flourish. A great example of this is a recent 'As We Are' art awards for intellectually disabled artists (page 8) which I had the pleasure of attending.

I am always so impressed with the work and connection of the members of the Claremont Men's Shed. On a recent visit I learnt about their support for Bicycles for Humanity (page 6), just another way they give back to society, and a great way to repurpose an unwanted bike.

On the sustainability front, our community events program is going green (page 14), by introducing reusable cups and crockery at events, and sorting stations to reduce the amount of rubbish that goes to landfill. Upcoming family favourite, Carols in the Park on 16 December, will also offer containers for change to encourage further recycling.

On behalf of my fellow elected members, I thank you for your continued support and wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

Best wishes
Mayor Jock Barker

Acknowledgement of Country

The Town acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, and pays its respects to Elders past and present.

Front cover

Opera singer Elena Perroni for the story 'Sweet soprano sounds' Image courtesy of Alessandro Marzullo.

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Would you like to receive the Town's monthly newsletter? Please email: media@claremont.wa.gov.au



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Mural art mentorship

Calling all young, local, and emerging artists. Are you keen to explore the practice of public art, but don't know where to start?

As part of our Youth Program, the Town is offering an exciting opportunity for an 18 to 25 year old to take part in the creation of a new public art mural, working alongside a professional public art practitioner.

"Public art is a growing area of employment for artists, and this initiative will provide a young, local, and emerging artist with invaluable paid work experience," said Cr Jill Goetze.

"It will allow one lucky resident experience working with a professional visual artist, who can show them skills and impart knowledge. There are very few training and development courses available, so this on-the-job experience will be very beneficial."

Interested? If you're aged between 18 and 25 years, please see claremont.wa.gov.au for the details, submission guidelines and closing date.

Discover our Public Art Trail
The Town's public art collection can now also be discovered on a dedicated page on our website showcasing the diverse collection of public art displayed throughout the area. The trail provides interested art-lovers the opportunity to go on a self-paced walk as they take in the many unique displays of creativity.

Visit our website and plan your walk on the art trail at your leisure.





Images courtesy of Alessandro Marzullo

Sweet soprano sounds

Opera singer and West Australian, Elena Perroni, has used the gift of her voice to take on the world. Fresh from the main stage at Carnegie Hall in New York, she's back home to take on A Night on Bay View in Claremont.

Over the phone, Elena speaks softly and eloquently. Her words are considered and deliberate as she talks through her life and career, pausing and rephrasing sentences to perfect answers. Her voice is warm and friendly but, for lack of a better term, very normal.

Listening to Elena sing, however, is anything but a normal experience. Her operatic soprano is tantalizing in its strength and versatility, her expertly controlled trills and melodic leaps showcasing virtuosity of a rare kind. It's enough to send shivers down the spine of even the most experienced opera consumer.

Growing up in the oceanside Perth suburb of Sorrento, Elena started out singing jazz tunes with friends while listening to a range of genres and artists. Her love of music was inspired by strong and talented women like Nina Simone and Dolly Parton, who she describes as amazing communicators.

"It's really inspiring to see her magic in communicating such profound emotion in her craft," Elena said of Nina Simone.

"Artists that have this ability to tell a story and take you on a journey, it can be simple but it's a really profound way to communicate. That's what inspired me."

A move into opera is logical for a singer who appreciates emotion and storytelling in music, and it helps to have a bit of encouragement along the way.

"Everybody said I had this sound or tilt in my voice like an opera singer," she said.

Elena forged her path through the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts, followed by the Manhattan School of Music in New York, and eventually the Curtis Institute of Music, a world renowned and exclusive music school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was the first Australian opera singer to attend the prestigious school.

After graduation, Elena spent her first year as a soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra before her opera debut with Opera Philadelphia, which led to a tour in the UK with the English National Opera. She has since performed on some of the most famous stages in the world, including Konzerthaus Berlin and Carnegie Hall, New York, and has a repertoire of some of the most renowned songs and arias in opera.

When the West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO) kick off the Town's annual concert A Night on Bay View in February 2024, it will be Elena's third time performing with her home state's ensemble, for whom she has high praise.

"I'm always humbled coming back home and feeling like we have one of the greatest orchestras in Australia, with international musicians and local talent that could hold up anywhere," Elena said.

"They're comparable to any orchestra in the world."

A Night on Bay View

Elena Perroni will join WASO for A Night on Bay View on Saturday 24 February 2024. 6:00pm-9:00pm, music from 7pm, Claremont Park. Bring a picnic or enjoy what's on offer from the range of food trucks.



Carols in the Park

WASO will also feature at the annual Carols in the Park, Claremont Park on Saturday 16 December. Visit claremont.wa.gov.au for more info.



Kids holiday highlights

Go on a Reading Quest this summer

Get your head into a book these holidays! Visit the Claremont Community Hub & Library and participate in this year's **Summer Reading Quest**. It's free and there are prizes to be won. If you need some inspiration to get started, try one of our Youth Librarian's reading recommendations.



Age 5+
Sally Rippin's School of Monsters series, Hey Jack! series and Billie B Brown series. Sally Rippin is an expert in finding the sweet spot between thoughtful and funny in her very popular children's books..



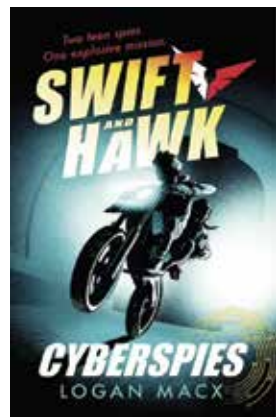
Age 8+
Runt by Craig Silvey is a classic of the future. It's a beautiful story of a girl and her very special dog (and of course, defeating a villain!) to save her family.

Spellhound by Lian Tanner. A charming magical quest story about a child queen, a magical pup and a minch wiggins (what is a minch wiggins? Only one way to find out!)



Age 10+
Big Magic by Sarah Armstrong. Tuli's family have a magical secret, but her Mum thinks she's too young to learn it. When her Mum disappears, though, Tuli is the only one who can find her... if only she can work out how.

The Friday Barnes, Girl Detective series by R.A. Spratt. Friday Barnes, in her sensible brown cardigan, has an aptitude for solving mysteries.



Age 12+
A Little Spark by Barry Jonsberg. Cate's lives with her Mum, but the time she spends with her Dad is really special to her. When her Mum decides they are moving from Australia to London, how will Cate manage without her Dad?

Swift and Hawk: Cyberspies by Logan Macx. This is a classic "kid spy" story, full of action. But it's also about teamwork and looking out for family.



Splash into Summer!

The Claremont Aquatic Centre will be hosting a fun day out to celebrate the start of the summer school holidays.

On 16 December, from 11am-3pm you'll find fun rides, pool inflatables and other planned entertainment

and activities for the annual 'End of School Pool Party' event.

With three young children of his own, Cr Ryan Brown knows too well the benefits and attraction of the pool during summer.

"My two older kids love the splash pad; they can play there for hours on end. The pool is a fantastic amenity for our community to enjoy with family and friends, young and old."

**Please note standard entry fees apply*

Spare Parts Puppet Show

The amazingly talented artists at Spare Parts Puppet Show will take to the stage for their latest performance, Pillow Fight, in the heart of the summer holidays this January.

Entertaining the young and the young at heart for over 40 years, their latest tale promises to be the feel-good holiday romp; a riotous comedy about biscuit banditry, bedtime bedlam and the unbreakable bonds of family.

This uproarious production takes centre stage as two siblings, Shane and Nadia, battle it out to uncover which of them broke Great Grandma's prized biscuit barrel.

This puppet adventure will run from 9-26 January 2024. Tickets are available on their website.



Recycle your ride

The Claremont Men's Shed are rolling up their sleeves to help the less fortunate get rolling, teaming up with Bicycles for Humanity WA to help send sustainable transport to Africa and Western Australia.

Bicycles for Humanity is an entirely volunteer run, global organisation that uses donated bikes to help alleviate poverty through sustainable transport. Every year around 1.5 million bikes are sold across Australia, and around half of these will end up unused or abandoned. The Western Australian chapter of the organisation is putting this huge resource to work in some of the world's poorest regions. With the help of community organisations like the Claremont Showgrounds Community Men's Shed, Bicycles for Humanity WA have sent more than 8500 bikes to Africa and a further 1500 to remote communities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The Men's Shed have been putting their handyman skills to good use by assisting the non-profit organisation with bike donation, repair, and delivery.

Men's Shed Bicycles for Humanity Group lead Michael Bisset said the group loves getting their hands dirty to help such a good cause.

"We like the idea of recycling bikes that end up in communities where they're highly valued," he said.

"It's just a good community project for our Men's Shed to be involved in beyond the western suburbs. It's been a very successful collaboration with Bicycles for Humanity."

Bicycles for Humanity WA spokesperson, David Tucker, mentioned the importance of community assistance for non-profit organisations.

"Absolutely fundamental [to the organisation]. The whole thing is run by volunteers, so to have groups like the Men's Shed along with other remote groups is important. The Men's Shed is doing a great job."

Globally, more than 325,000 bikes have been donated to impoverished and developing areas of the world, allowing people to travel long distances to school, for food and water, to seek or deliver healthcare, or to markets to buy or sell goods.

In addition to bicycle donations, the organisation requires significant funding to ship containers of bikes overseas. This is achieved by generous donations from the public and by the sale of merchandise on the Bicycles for Humanity website.

Do you have a bike that's collecting dust? If your two-wheeler is just taking up space, Bicycles for Humanity WA would love to take it off your hands.

Want to know more?

If you want to get involved with the Showgrounds Community Men's Shed bicycle group, head to their website via the QR code or at msclaremont.tidyhq.com





Artwork: Magpie Coroboree by Robin Thorne

Community funding focus — Funding for art's sake

The Town of Claremont Community Funding Program is helping the community in a variety of ways, including supporting the As We Are art awards for intellectually disabled artists.

In 2002, Rosalind Lewis from Citizen Advocacy Perth West felt inspired by the creative expression of artists with intellectual disabilities. Her belief in equal opportunities motivated her to organise a one-off art award and exhibition for aspiring artists with disabilities, in an industry where opportunities like these were scarce. Twenty-one years on, this art award holds its place as a prestigious and significant event on the Western Australian arts calendar.

The 2023 Exhibition Opening and Award Presentation Evening was held at the Wilkinson Gallery, Claremont Showgrounds, with more than 500 guests and an eclectic mix of inspired art.

Mayor Jock Barker attended the awards night and spoke of the importance of community funding for events like As We Are.

“Providing an environment in which intellectually disabled people can express themselves creatively and be a part of something meaningful is such an important initiative, and I’m proud that our Council is able to assist through the Community Funding Program,” he said.

Funding for cat enclosures

The Town’s newly formed Catio Grant Program supports the building of enclosed areas in backyards for domestic cats, allowing the pets to spend time outside without the risk of harming native wildlife.

Cr Shelley Hatton said the new grant is a great opportunity for cat owners, who would like their cat to have a longer healthier life, as well as protecting native wildlife.

“It’s an unfortunate reality that domestic cats can be a threat to native wildlife, so the construction of catios is a logical solution to protect other animals and creating a safe outdoor space for our feline friends. The added benefit for cats is that they can live for longer and reduce their humans’ vet bills by staying healthier in their own safe space” she said.

“Our Community Funding Program seeks to promote cat safety and protection of native wildlife.”



Like to know more about Community Grants?

More information on community grants can be found on the Town of Claremont website.



Freshwater Bay Primary students celebrating the schools 130 year anniversary. Photo credit: Birdseye Media.

Milestones make history

Rich in history, these Claremont organisations have been a part of our community for over a century, making it a hard task to remember life in Claremont without them. Their contributions and presence are now long-established in our leafy green village.

130 years — Freshwater Bay Primary School, Bay View Terrace

The staff, students, and alumni this year held celebrations in honour of its 130th year. The buildings formerly were state heritage listed, built in 1893.

Originally called Claremont State School, it had a single limestone building to accommodate all the children attending.

The school precedes electricity in homes. A power station in Claremont didn't come until 1905.

Claremont Showground — Grand Parade, c1905



121 years — Claremont Showground, 1 Graylands Road

In 1902 the land was reserved by the State Government and the first Royal Agricultural Show at the Claremont location was held in 1905.

The showground has been used to host many events in its history including a training ground for the Australian troops in World War I and World War II, Speedway Racing, and West Australian Football League games to name a few.

The State Government along with the Royal Agricultural Society are working towards an improvement plan for the historic space and redevelopment of the site making way for an improved facility.

Claremont Yacht Club Opening Day, 1949



118 years — Claremont Yacht Club, 4 Victoria Avenue

Established in 1905, the club held its inaugural race with 200 visitors witnessing the historic event.

The current two-story version of the building was opened by Sir Charles Gairdner on 16 June 1956. The yacht club has hosted many a race and been a place to gather for more than a century overlooking the exquisite Freshwater Bay.

The clubhouse will be redeveloped to make way for an updated building at this historic location.

Church of Resurrection — Chapel at St Oswalds



100 years — Church of Resurrection, 105 Shenton Road

The Church of the Resurrection, formerly known as St Oswalds, celebrates 100 years of serving the community.

Fire almost destroyed the Church in 2004 with only three walls and the hall left standing. The rebuild has resulted in a beautiful light filled space, that won the 2011 Civic Award for best adaption of a heritage place.

The Church now hosts many concerts and musical recitals with the hall facilities also catering for varied community leisure and recreational activities.

Summer's hot picks

The Green Duck Society

Shop 8 Avion Way,
Claremont

The Green Duck Society is a must-visit for its carefully curated selection of art, headwear, bags, jewellery and beautiful giftware.

Store owner, Danielle Eaton, is dedicated to make stepping into the Green Duck Society a real treat.

One of Danielle's favourite looks for summer is a stylish hat adorned with a beautiful broach — the only trouble is deciding which combination to go for!

Danielle's suggestions for special gift ideas are something from the stunning selection of coveted House of Emmanuele jewellery.



Monde Design

Shop 58 Bay View Terrace,
Claremont

Monde Design offers customers a tailored shopping experience with a range of designer homewares, gifts and children's accessories.

With a background in interior design, owner Sharnie Sammut prides herself on sourcing unique and quality products from across the globe.

In keeping with a fun summer vibe, Sharnie can't go past the popular range of Headdemock hammocks. This large and luxurious hammock fits up to two people, and thanks to a bespoke design it can be conveniently assembled anywhere.



Teall Jewellery

5/20 St Quentin Ave,
Claremont

A recent addition to the Claremont Town Centre, the Teall Jewellery store offers jewellery that's not only elegant but also built to last.

Crafted with durable materials, Teall Jewellery is waterproof, making it ideal for the summer season and beach getaways.

What's more, the reasonable price points ensure that you can find the perfect gift or elevate your look without breaking the bank.

Kyla Hohenstein, store owner of Teall, suggests the 'Leni' ring as the perfect summer addition to any outfit.



By book or by Crooke

As a child in the Depression years of the 1930s, Claremont resident Judy Crooke clearly remembers the excitement of her birthday present every year. One new book to be cherished, reread, and then exchanged for other books, all year long.

These books were very special. Judy remembers a child disappearing during someone's birthday party with one of these book-presents, to be found after the party was over, still avidly reading it on the front doorstep!

Now, aged 93, Judy revels in a morning spent nearly every week at the Save The Children Book Depot in Claremont, with children's books up to her eyeballs! After moving to Claremont in 1987, she began volunteering with Save the Children following her retirement in 1993.

Conveniently for Claremont residents, the book depot accepts donated books for resale six days a week. There, more than 50 volunteers check the books for quality, sort them into about 60 categories and pack them ready for one of the Save The Children book sales at nearby UWA.

This year marks the 30th year Judy has been sorting the books. "Working at the Book Depot is an enjoyable part of my social life and an essential part of my week," she says.

These days, as well as her volunteering work, she plays club bridge, goes to a weekly exercise class, and aims to take three half-hour walks each week.

Working at the depot can also provide pleasant surprises. A special one for Judy was finding a book titled "Old Fremantle," that contained a photo of The Princess May School Competition Squad in 1910. There was her mother, aged 10! Naturally, she purchased the book.

Although Judy no longer goes to the book sales, her grandchildren do. Their next appointment is at the popular annual Summer Save The Children book sale, on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 February, from 9am-4pm.

Donations of good quality books can be made at the Book Depot, corner Goldsworthy and Agett Roads, Claremont, open Monday to Friday 8am-noon, and Sunday 2-4pm.



Discover Claremont — The premier place to shop, dine and be entertained

Follow Claremont Town Centre socials!

Did you know the Claremont Town Centre has its own Facebook and Instagram pages? Follow for up-to-date news along with the latest products and special offers.





Greening our events

If you have attended one of the Town's events lately, you may have noticed less of something.

As the Town is committed to reducing our carbon footprint, we are extending this philosophy to our community events by aiming to reduce the amount of rubbish generated. This is all part of our 'greening events' program which includes reusing and recycling to minimise the amount of waste we create.

At Celebrate the Lake and the Foreshore events this year, the Town engaged GO2CUP to sort and audit waste and provide reusable containers.

"By supplying reusable containers and washing on site, this reduces the amount of waste going to landfill," Cr Kate Main said. "And sorting waste to prevent contamination promotes improved recycling opportunities. It's a cleaner, greener way to go".

Locals Judith and Alek said of Celebrate the Foreshore, "We would like to add our applause and congratulations for an amazing event. The celebration of the Claremont foreshore showcased all that is special about living in this corner of Perth; the museum, the community, the environment, and a council that is prepared to initiate, fund, and encourage local events."

Get in the loop

Sustainable, convenient news on what's happening right here in our Town delivered straight to your inbox!

Sign up to the Town's e-newsletter and follow us on socials to stay up-to-date with all the latest news, events and happenings right here in our area.

Simply follow the QR code — keeping up-to-date on the latest news and events or important information about what's going on in our community is only a click away.

And the winner is...

Congratulations to our 'Win an iPad just by going online' competition winner, Celine!

Celine was very excited to learn she had won a brand-new iPad just by simply signing up to the Town's e-newsletter, and said her family would be making good use of their new tech.

Get in the Loop

TOWN of CLAREMONT



Citizenship provides the best of both worlds

Frenchman Francois Fontaine recently became an Australian citizen in a ceremony at the Town of Claremont. His journey from Normandy to Claremont began with a thirst for life and now sees him living an endless summer on both sides of the world.

As an energetic 23-year-old fresh from graduating with a teaching qualification, Francois was ready to take on the world, but he didn't yet know where that would lead him. Forced to complete his national service, as was customary in France in those days, Francois was given a choice: spend a year in the navy or spend two years abroad in a French teaching institution in Algeria.

"I was young and restless, and Algeria's not far enough," he said. "So, I picked up the phone... and said, would you happen to have something a bit further?"

The answer was yes — 17,000 kilometres away in Melbourne, Australia. Francois went to Victoria to teach at Alliance Francaise, a French language and cultural school with more than 800 locations across the world. This then led him to a job as the first director of Alliance Francaise, Perth, where he spent six years continuing to fall in love with Australia. He even met his future wife, Miranda.

In 2007, Francois and Miranda began a six-monthly country hopping routine that sees them move back and forth between France and Australia in order to spend time with their respective families.

During the warmer months when he's in Perth, Francois lives in Swanbourne and is a keen member of the Town of Claremont community. He's a passionate fan of the leafy tree canopies throughout the Town and he is a member of the Friends of Lake Claremont, often lending a hand at their community working bees.

"It's a very nice place to live in," he said. "It's a suburb that we like very much."



What's On in Summer 2023/24

December

Until 16 | Represent: Aboriginal Figurative Practice in WA. Exhibition at Form Gallery. form.net.au

3 | Spilt Milk Music Festival Claremont Showground 10am. spilt-milk.com.au

7 | Santa's Night Village Claremont Town Centre 6–8pm. claremont.wa.gov.au

7 | History in a Coffee Cup Claremont Museum 10am. claremont.wa.gov.au

9 | Christmas Rectory Cafe Christ Church Claremont 9am–12pm: cakes, preserves, gifts & more. claremont.perth.anglican.org

9 & 10 | The Snowman with Perth Symphony Orchestra Scotch College. perthsymphony.com

10 | Friends of Lake Claremont Busy Bee, email: folc.wa@gmail.com for time and meeting point.

14 | Tiger Bar Claremont Football Club. Last of the season: kids activities, drink specials, from 4pm. claremontfc.com.au

15 | Christmas Craft Claremont Community Hub & Library 10am (age 2–5) & 1:30pm (age 6+). claremont.wa.gov.au

16 | End of School Pool Party Claremont Aquatic Centre 11am–3pm. claremont.wa.gov.au

16 | Carols in the Park Claremont Park 4:30–8pm. claremont.wa.gov.au

20 | Storytime with Santa Claremont Community Hub & Library 10am. claremont.wa.gov.au



January

8–26 | Pillow Fight by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre at Claremont Showground 10am & 1pm. sppt.com.au

10 | Animal Ark's Roadshow Claremont Community Hub & Library 10 & 11:30am (age 3+). claremont.wa.gov.au

12 | Sustainable Craft & Fun Claremont Community Hub & Library 10am (age 5+). claremont.wa.gov.au

14 | Friends of Lake Claremont Busy Bee, email: folc.wa@gmail.com for time and meeting point.

17 | Lego Robotics Claremont Community Hub & Library 10am (age 7+). claremont.wa.gov.au

19 | Nintendo Switch Mario Kart Competition Claremont Community Hub & Library 10am (age 6+). claremont.wa.gov.au

21 | Wedding & Bride Summer Expo Claremont Showground 9am–3pm. perthweddingexpo.com.au

24 | Cake Decorating Claremont Community Hub & Library 10:30am (age 5+). claremont.wa.gov.au

February

1 | History in a Coffee Cup Claremont Museum 10am. claremont.wa.gov.au

11 | Friends of Lake Claremont Busy Bee, email: folc.wa@gmail.com for time and meeting point.

20–22 | On the Road to Win Friends and Influence People by Midnite Youth Theatre at CCGS Drama Centre, 7pm. midnite.ccgswa.edu.au

24 | A Night on Bay View Claremont Park 7pm. claremont.wa.gov.au

28 | Paul Dillon Community Presentation Christchurch Grammar School 6:30–8pm. ccgswa.edu.au

Museum Fashionable Stories Exhibition

1 December to 21 December, 8 Jan to 7 April 2024

Wednesdays

Claremont Quilting & Craft Group Join this crafty group every Wednesday of school terms from 9.30am–2pm at the Claremont Baptist Church. Morning tea and some equipment provided. Cost is \$5. claremontbaptistchurch.com

Claremont Community Hub & Library

Don't forget the **Claremont Community Hub & Library** host a great range of free weekly activities including language conversation groups, knitting, art, book club and story time.

Saturdays

Lake Claremont parkrun Join the free, fun & friendly 5km community event every Saturday at 8.00am, meet near the Tee Box café. parkrun.com.au

Claremont Lawn Tennis Club Visitors are welcome on a Saturday afternoon all year round. They offer court hire, coaching for all levels, social and competitive play and a welcoming, fun atmosphere. claremonttennis.com.au

Upcoming events

Do you have an event on in Claremont for March–May? Let us know at toc@claremont.wa.gov.au and we can include it in the next Flourish!



**24
FEB**

**FREE CONCERT
FROM 7PM
CLAREMONT
PARK**

claremont.wa.gov.au

A NIGHT ON BAY VIEW

PERFORMED BY _____

WASO West Australian
Symphony Orchestra

TOWN OF
CLAREMONT
Est 1898