

Canberra with the Peels

November 30 – December 5

2022



**Bird List – Canberra
November 30 – December 5**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Australian Pelican | 39. Sacred Kingfisher |
| 2. Darter | 40. Dollarbird |
| 3. Pied Cormorant | 41. White-throated Treecreeper |
| 4. Little Pied Cormorant | 42. Superb Fairywren |
| 5. Great Cormorant | 43. Spotted Pardalote |
| 6. Little Black Cormorant | 44. Striated Pardalote |
| 7. Australasian Grebe | 45. White-browed Scrubwren |
| 8. Black Swan | 46. Chestnut-rumped Thornbill |
| 9. Pacific Black Duck | 47. Red Wattlebird |
| 10. Hardhead | 48. Noisy Friarbird |
| 11. Australian Wood Duck | 49. Noisy Miner |
| 12. Dusky Moorhen | 50. Yellow-faced Honeyeater |
| 13. Purple Swamphen | 51. White-plumed Honeyeater |
| 14. Eurasian Coot | 52. New Holland Honeyeater |
| 15. White-necked Heron | 53. Eastern Spinebill |
| 16. White-faced Heron | 54. Eastern Yellow Robin |
| 17. Australian White Ibis | 55. Grey Shrike Thrush |
| 18. Masked Lapwing | 56. Rufous Whistler |
| 19. Silver Gull | 57. Grey Fantail |
| 20. Brown Goshawk | 58. Willie Wagtail |
| 21. Brown Falcon | 59. Magpie Lark |
| 22. Australasian Kestrel | 60. Olive-backed Oriole |
| 23. Rock Dove (i) | 61. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike |
| 24. Spotted Turtle-Dove (i) | 62. Australian Magpie |
| 25. Common Bronzewing | 63. Pied Currawong |
| 26. Crested Pigeon | 64. Australian Raven |
| 27. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo | 65. White-winged Chough |
| 28. Gang Gang Cockatoo | 66. Welcome Swallow |
| 29. Galah | 67. Australian Reed Warbler |
| 30. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | 68. Golden-headed Cisticola |
| 31. Rainbow Lorikeet | 69. Eurasian Goldfinch (i) |
| 32. Australian King Parrot | 70. Red-browed Finch |
| 33. Crimson Rosella | 71. Silvereye |
| 34. Eastern Rosella | 72. Common Blackbird (i) |
| 35. Red-rumped Parrot | 73. Common Starling (i) |
| 36. Fan-tailed Cuckoo | 74. Common Myna (i) |
| 37. Common Koel | |
| 38. Laughing Kookaburra | |

Wednesday 30th November 2022

We have settled into the Adina Apartment in Kingston. Our room is apartment 157 and is, indeed, a 3-bedroom one. Sue and Stuart have a 2-bedroom one at 149. They are very comfortable indeed. They are even quite clean. Mind you, when we arrived, we discovered that the parking was out of action. As we had booked ages ago, the manager did make sure we got free parking vouchers at Secure Parking ten minutes' walk away in Kingston shopping centre and also helped us get our luggage to our rooms. We'll work out what to do about packing up on Monday!

Our first main stop was Rowe's Lagoon!



It is full!



Juvenile Willie Wagtail



Australian White Ibis



Grey Shrike Thrush



Australian Raven

Second stop: Lake George!





For our reactionary ex-Treasurer, who considered them an “eyesore”

But now, having fed Susan and Stuart, caught up over wine and food, it is time to call it a day! Apart from aging, not much else has changed since we last saw them, 14 years ago!

Thursday 1st December 2022

Now miracles do happen. In the wee hours of the morning, Australia defeated Denmark 1-0 and consequently won two of their three games in their group, to emerge into the round of 16. Our next opponent is Argentina! Argentina put Poland to the sword in the following game.

And after breakfast the four of us walked down to Kingston, got Stuart's hearing aids attended to in no time and explored the foreshore.





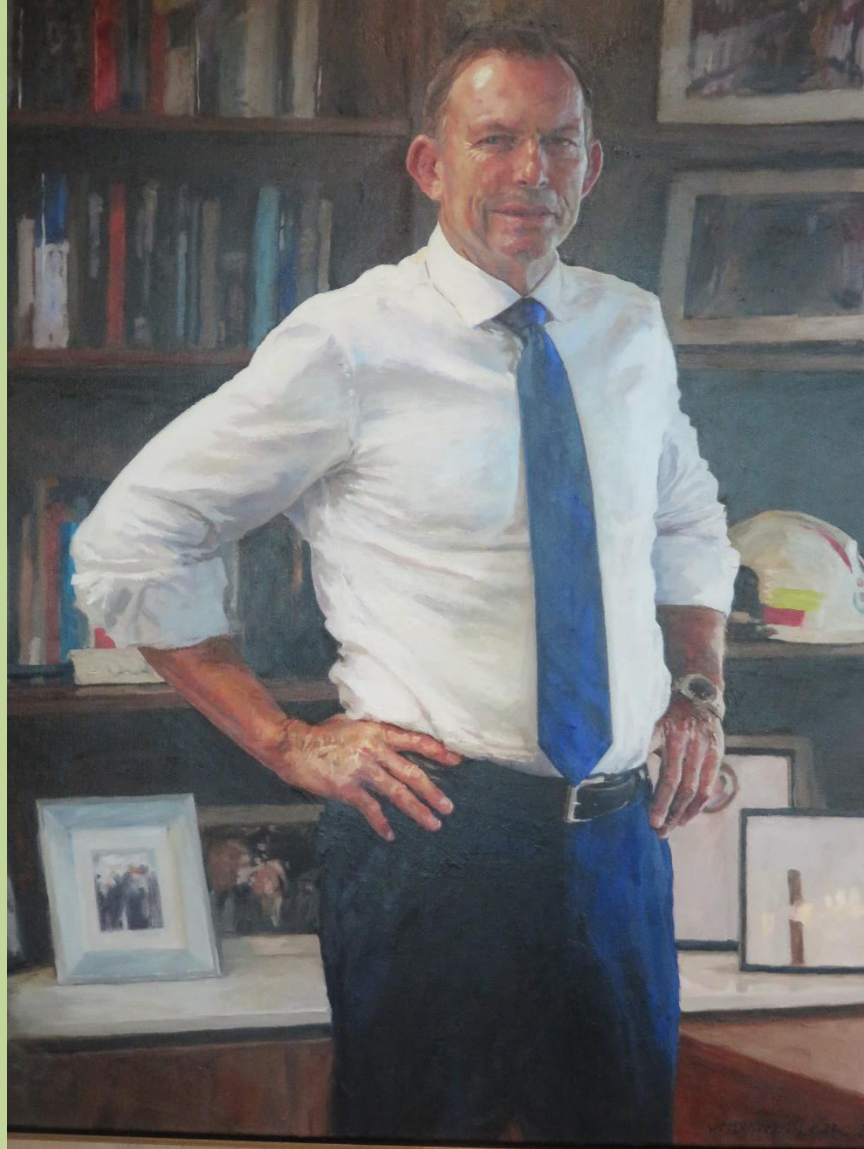


We then returned via Telopea Park.



After morning tea, we walked to Parliament House, via the Wesley Centre (where we arranged concert tickets).





Yesterday the portrait of Tony Abbott was hung! Some people wished that to be more personal

Oh, yes, and we saw Christopher Pyne leaving Parliament. I assume he was lobbying on behalf of defence industries.

And so, we then returned home through the gardens!



Hover fly on native paper daisies





The Atrium of the building that houses the Department of Finance



And back into Manuka and the Catholic Church.

That gave us a short break to rest before walking back to the Wesley Centre for a free organ recital this afternoon. And what a recital! This was the end-of-year ACT Organ School concert with the students playing:

Programme	
1. Joseph Llyod	Prelude in C, BWV553, circle of J S Bach
2. Ryan (Haoxua) Xing	Prelude in G, BWV 558, circle of J S Bach
	Elegy, William Walton
3. Adrian Cullity	Wo soil ich fliechen hin, BWV646, J S Bach
4. Christian Chen	Trio on 'Picardy', Joseph Clokey
5. James Porteous	Cantabile (Tois Pièces, No 2), César Franck
6. Jayden Lohe	Prelude and Fuge in C, BWV 546, J S Bach

Young Ryan, in bow-tie and suit, whose legs could hardly reach the pedals (and his proud mother) sat in the front seat with us and we were very proud of him. Adrian was clearly on the spectrum but his focus was superb and, the final piece, by Jayden was of a young man whose musical skills were obvious! What a way to end a magical night!!!!

Afterwards Susan and Stuart and Faye and I dined royally in our unit and talked till after 10pm. It's been a full day.

Friday 2nd December 2022

After watching Japan defeat Spain (yes, you read that right), the four of us headed to Black Mountain and the vegetation of the summit!

It had been a good year for grass!



Redanther Wallaby Grass – *Joycea pallida*





Brushtail Speargrass – *Austrostipa densiflora*

Susan and Stuart were quite taken by a raucous territorial squabble between two competing families of kookaburras and, yes, it was a special event. They certainly let themselves be known.



But let us start at the beginning!



Solanum sp



Billardiera sp



Lomandra sp





Diuris sulphurea



Hoary Sunray





Grevillea sp



Daviesia sp



Microtis unifolia



Towards the Brindabellas



Native bee on *Hibbertia*





Wahlenbergia



Caladenia moschata





And that was just the morning! Down the hill, inside the Botanic Gardens, we stopped and had our lunch while watching birds and water dragons before having a walk around the site.



It must be getting close to Xmas









Red Wattlebird



Pied Currawong



Some birds hate their own reflection – Magpie Lark attacks itself (clearly not Narcissus)



Bembix sp. Sand Wasp





Common Bronzewing



Fantail Cuckoo



Crimson Rosella



Eastern Spinebill



New Holland Honeyeater – banded, I see!



Australian Wood Duck

That gave us all a short rest before dining at Bambusa, our favourite restaurant in this area. I do declare that I think Susan and Stuart also liked it.

Saturday 3rd December 2022 -- Jerrabomberra Wetland

It was meant to be half a day. It last until 3.00pm and we had a great day of birding!





Male Rufous Whistler



Superb Fairywren



Australian Magpie (technically a Butcherbird)



Young Australian Magpie demanding to be fed



The introduced Goldfinch





Dollarbird





Follow The Leader – Pacific Black Duck



Purple Swamphen



Grey Fantail



Australian Reed Warbler



White-plumed Honeyeater
(Immature)



Black Swan



Hardhead



Welcome Swallows being fed



The kids learning to fly



Looking for its mother?





Darter (adult) above and Darter (immature) below







White-browed Scrubwren





Welcome Swallow attending the nestlings



King Parrot acrobatics



And, of course, we had a food and drink-filled evening; a shared effort held in our apartment. But the entire quartet is getting tired and the night did not go too long. Perhaps we are no longer teenagers!

But before that, resting after our birding efforts, we did a loop drive around the various embassies. That American one sprawls over so much terrain one would think they have a territorial claim to the country!

Sunday, 4th December 2022

We were up before 6.00am, filled with a mixture of hope and trepidation as the Socceroos faced the might of Argentina (and Messi) in the knockout round. As we watched, it was clear that we intended to protect our goal and hope that the longer we held off, we might frustrate Argentina. For quite some time in the first half it was working but Messi was not to be denied and in the 34th minute he made it 1-0.

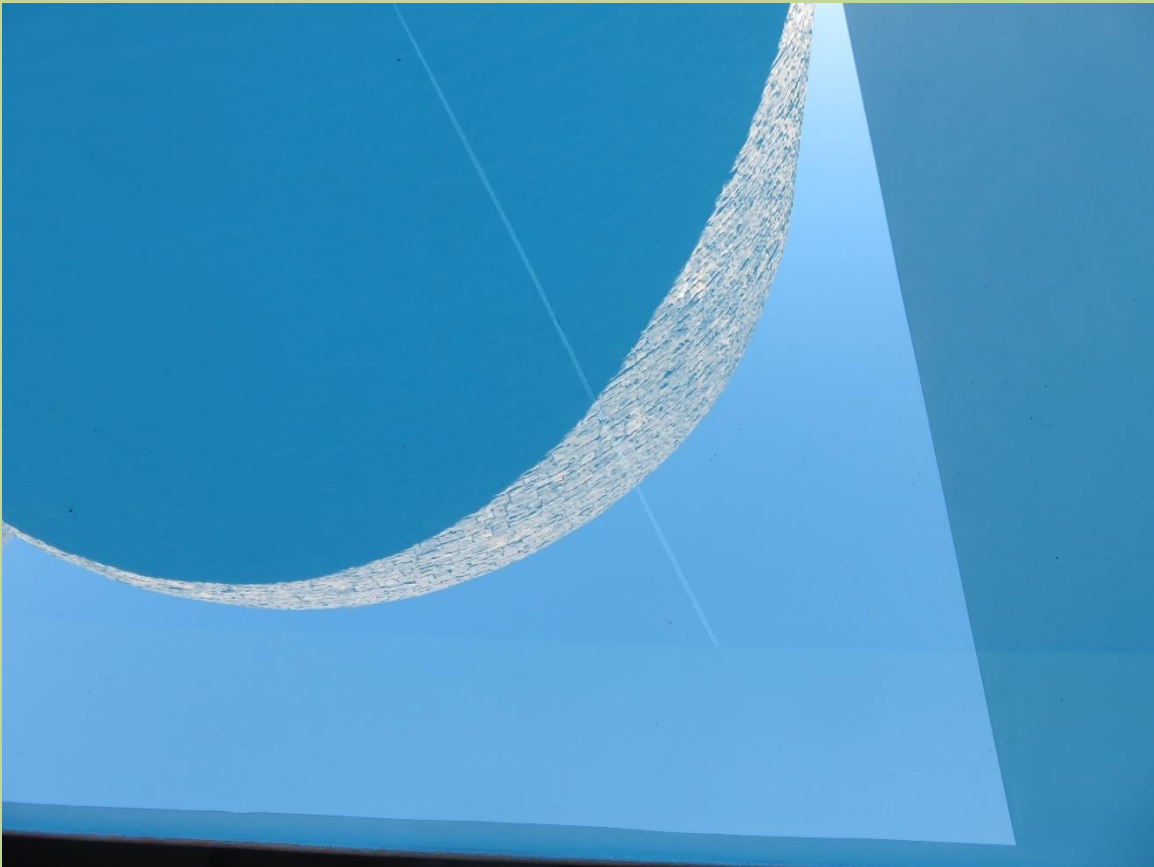
A horrendous error by Ryan, normally as reliable as you'd ever want, gifted Argentina their second when Julian Alvarez scored in the 57th minute. Arnold needed to change the team and when Goodwin came on, we clawed on back (76th minute) and Kuol came on so close in the final minute to bring the scores level. Denied by their keeper, that was our last game in this World Cup but we come home proud, heads held high!

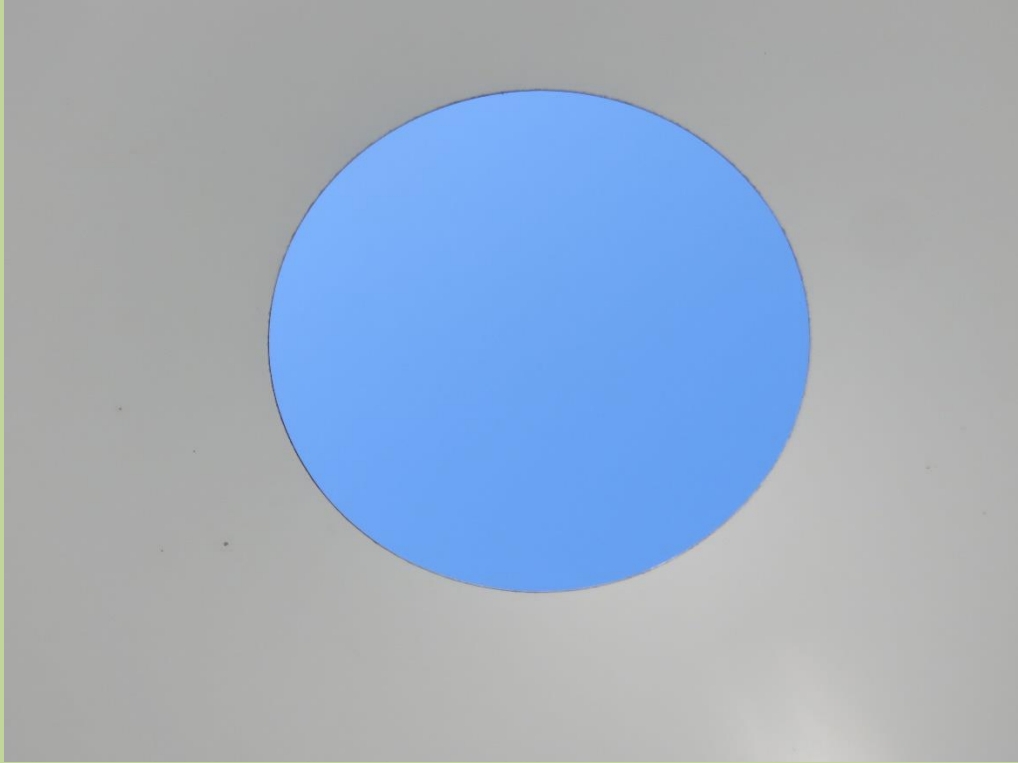
Having watched that, the tired quartet headed to the National Gallery of Australia and spent the first 45 plus minutes outside in the Sculpture Park, starting with "Within, Without" by James Turrell.¹



¹ My work is about space and the light that inhabits it. It is about how you confront that space and plumb it with vision. It is about your seeing, like the wordless thought that comes from looking into fire. — James Turrell

<https://nga.gov.au/art-artists/sculpture-garden/james-turrell-within-without-2010/>









The permutations are endless

But there are many more sculptural works!



Susan and Stuart were pleased to see two of the British best represented!



Tracey Emin – When I Sleep, 2018

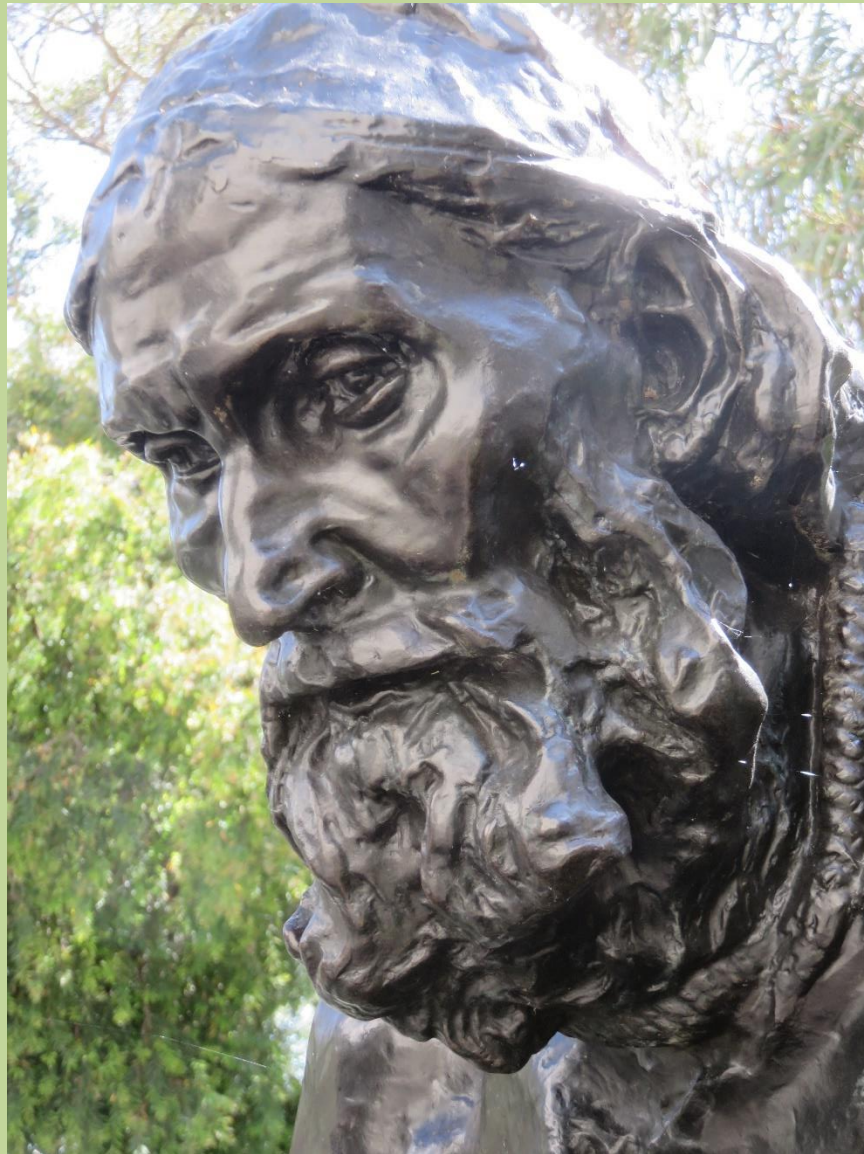


Antony Gormley – Angel of the North



Linda Marrinon – Woman in Jumpsuit





We entered the actual art gallery and Susan and Stuart headed off to look at the general exhibitions while Faye and I went to the special retrospective on Cressida Campbell.²

² <https://nga.gov.au/exhibitions/cressida-campbell/>

Cressida Campbell is among Australia's most significant contemporary artists working with painting and printmaking. Directly inspired by her surroundings, for over 40 years the Gadigal/Sydney-based artist has transformed commonplace experiences from her life into single edition prints and painted woodblocks.

Combining keen observation with a delicacy of line, Campbell's woodblock paintings and prints capture the overlooked beauty of the everyday. Through her views of a working harbour or burnt bushland, an arrangement of nasturtiums or a plate of ripening persimmons, the artist celebrates the transitory moments of life.

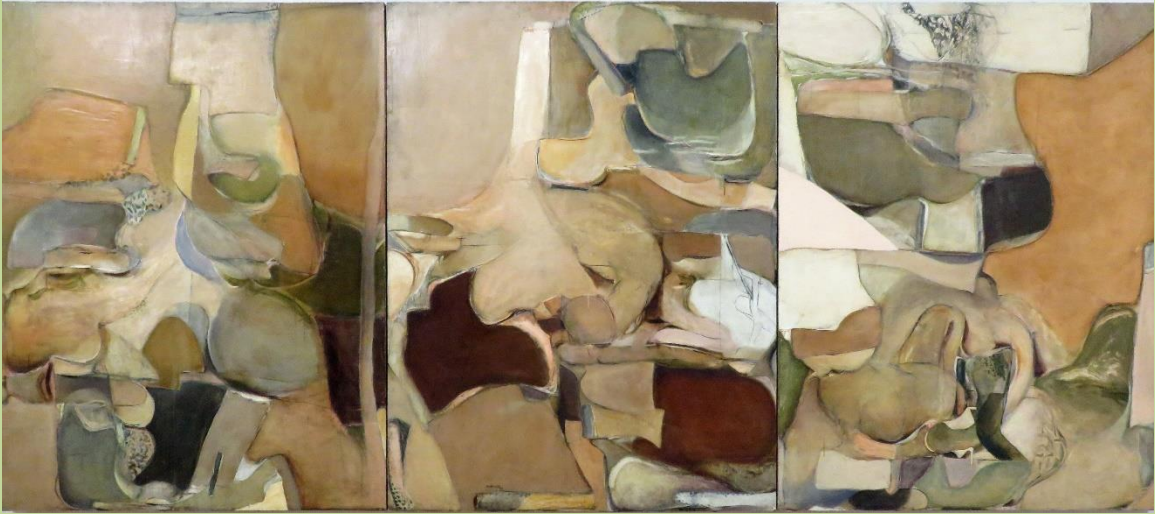
To demonstrate that this is not such a large country, as we arrived at the Art Gallery this morning we ran into Margaret Ning. Tis a small world! Mind you, we never spotted her again. We must come down again to join FOG events.



When we reunited, we headed to the Members Lounge for a coffee and snack and a much-needed rest before going back into the gallery for even more art!



I love the work of Joy Hester



And Brett Whiteley





The find of the visit for me: Hilda Rix Nicholas – These Gave the World Away³

³ When Hilda Rix Nicholas's husband was killed during the First World War, she was overwhelmed by grief. The artist had lost her sister, her mother, and now her husband, Major George Matson Nicholas DSO.

Devastated, she turned to her art, creating some of the most powerful and deeply personal works of her career.



After that, we drove up to the Wesley Centre to hear a performance of Four Seasons (Vivaldi) by the Phoenix Collective.⁴



PHOENIX COLLECTIVE QUARTET
with special guest Ariana Odermatt on harpsichord

Sunday 4th December 2022, 3pm
Programme:

Le quattro stagioni (The Four Seasons),
Op. 8, Nos. 1–4

La primavera (Spring), RV 269 Allegro—Largo—Allegro: Danza pastorale
L'estate (Summer), RV 315 Allegro non molto—Adagio—Presto
L'autunno (Autumn), RV 293 Allegro—Adagio molto—Allegro
L'inverno (Winter), RV 297 Allegro non molto—Largo—Allegro

⁴ The quartet includes artistic director, Dan Russell (violin), Pip Thompson (second violin), Ella Brinch (viola) and Andrew Wilson (cello)

Phoenix Collective is one of Australia's most versatile and dynamic ensembles. Founded in 2018 by Dan Russell, Phoenix has rapidly become a fixture of the Australian musical landscape with their own series of concerts touring Sydney, Canberra and the Central Coast. Their schedule includes a regular Phoenix recital series, a multitude of programs for Fever's Candlelight concerts, Phoenix Sessions for Willoughby Council's Culture Bites, a bespoke concert series at Tattersalls Club and a lunchtime series for the vulnerable at Wayside Chapel, which is generously sponsored by Judith Neilson AM

Ref: <https://phoenixcollective.com.au/artists>

Written between 1716 and 1725 when Vivaldi was working in Mantua, the concerti are an early example of programmatic music. In these works, Vivaldi uses musical techniques to explicitly depict images from a series of sonnets (possibly written by the composer himself). The concerti were published in 1725 as part of a series entitled The Contest Between Harmony and Invention.

Vivaldi's status as a composer has not always been as high as it is today, and the first recording of The Four Seasons is thought to have been in 1939. The concerti have since cemented their place in the classical music canon through hundreds of recordings, performances and use in films, television and even ubiquitously as 'hold music' for many call centres!⁵

But it was that encore, a modernist exercise, that won our hearts!

After the concert and a rest, we all returned to Bambusa for our final dinner together and once more we sat outside, but further away from the road. It was a balmy night and the space was kind. The food was even better than last time and complemented each other nicely.

We then returned home to our place to have dessert, cleaning up the remaining ice cream and a huge bowl of fruit salad.

⁵ Program notes

Monday 5th December 2022

Despite a shaky first thirty minutes, England was way too good for Senegal this morning and Susan and Stuart should be pleased. Their kids, Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka, were devastating but as with so much about this team, the fulcrum was Kane. They now meet a rampant France and Mbappe, who apparently blew Poland off the face of the earth in the earlier game.

So, no wonder Stuart had a smile on his face when we came to collect him, collect our car from its “Secure” car park, and return to pack and say our good byes.

Sadly, I have to report that on our way home and within the zone for adding birds to our official list, we did get to add an Australasian kestrel, bringing the total species list to 74!

Home safe and sound, unpacking before 12.30pm.... hoping the drive for the Peels to Cooma went smoothly.

And very happy we were able to catch up!!!!