



Understanding
Our Natural World

Field Nats News No. 304

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130

Telephone 03 9877 9860

P.O. Box 13, Blackburn 3130 www.fncv.org.au

Newsletter email: fnnews@fncv.org.au

(Office email: admin@fncv.org.au)



Editor: Joan Broadberry 03 9846 1218

Founding editor: Dr Noel Schleiger

Reg. No. A0033611X

Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau, AC
Governor of Victoria

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9.30 am - 4 pm.

February 2020

From the President

Welcome to 2020 and the first edition of Field Nats News for this year. We have all been alarmed and dismayed by the catastrophic bushfires of unprecedented scale and intensity that continue to ravage our country after record-breaking heat and drought. As you are aware, the loss of life, property, infrastructure, livestock, wildlife and ecosystems is beyond description. Our heart-felt condolences and sympathy go out to all of our fellow Australians who are enduring this disaster and suffering great loss. We praise the unrelenting efforts of the fire crews and emergency personnel who have put their lives on the line for their communities. I urge you contribute to relief efforts in any way that you can by contacting the numerous organisations providing assistance.

Council has put in place procedures for all excursions which will apply until further notice. This fire season has barely commenced and more extreme weather and associated fires are expected. If you were or are planning to attend FNCV field excursions you must advise the excursion leader at least a week prior to the planned event. You will need to supply all of your current contact details and you will be notified if the excursion is to go ahead. If you do not advise the excursion leader you will not be registered to attend. If you are not notified that the event is actually going ahead please do not go to the site. Contact the designated excursion leader if you have any queries. Your safety is of great concern to us and we do not want to amplify the problems facing emergency personnel by increasing the number of potential evacuees. Wherever you travel, please check the fire websites beforehand and stay safe. Under these unprecedented conditions there is no safe way to deal with bushfires other than staying away altogether.

I recently visited my shared property in Suggan Buggan and immediately noticed an apparent reduction in invertebrate numbers. Rainbow bee-eaters had arrived in significant numbers and were attempting to dig their burrows. Compared to previous years there were very few flying insects for them to eat. They are usually seen flying up and down the river collecting dragonflies. I never saw a single bee-eater with a dragonfly and saw only one dragonfly over four days. The river seemed much warmer than it has been for the previous 43 years and there was more fine sediment than usual. I am concerned about the impact on invertebrates accustomed to cold, oligotrophic water. Whip-birds were making themselves heard up and down the river but seldom visible. Fires are still active near Suggan Buggan and we do not know if the property and the adjacent National Parks have been burnt, so the status of the bee-eaters, whipbirds and other organisms is uncertain. It may be a long time before we can get back to check.



A rainbow bee-eater *Merops ornatus* getting airborne at Suggan Buggan.
Photo: Gus Fabris

The deadline for FNN 305 will be **10 am on Tuesday 4th February**. FNN will go to the printers on the 11th will collation on Tuesday morning 18th of February.

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From the President, continued from page 1.



Left: *Psophodes olivaceus*., Eastern Whipbird. A very brief appearance in full call.

Above: One of the few larger insects observed at Suggan Buggan. A broad-nosed weevil *Amycterus* sp.

Photos: Max Campbell

Nature Stewards

Last year the Nature Stewards Program ran in Melbourne, Melton and Manningham with two courses in the first semester and three in the second. This year Geelong will be added to the program. When asked what they most enjoyed the feedback from the participants was excellent. Just a few of the unedited responses are included below.

"...the presenters were fabulous - passionate and learned." "It's been life changing"

"This has been such a wonderful experience. I've learnt so much and feel motivated to learn more. Somehow I missed out on learning about these things in the past. Maybe because I moved schools a few times in high school. I'm such a devotee of nature and this is giving me a much deeper appreciation. The quality of the presenters has been extraordinary. I feel privileged to have met and heard their wisdom. I find myself sharing these learnings in conversation and surprising people with information about their local environment. It's exciting."

"Thank you for the awesome opportunity presented in these field sessions and for arousing my curiosity in various aspects with regard to engaging with the nature around us."

"The program has been very informative and all of the speakers have been excellent"

"It's been a wonderful experience, and I have learned so much about nature and Victoria. There's a lot of knowledge that will stay with me for my entire life, and many areas that I will do further research into!"



"I am proud to call myself a Nature Steward"

"The facilitators' teaching style is the best I've experienced! Enthusiastic, knowledgeable, A++"

Very well done. You help myself understand Nature. I have no background but a passion and Nature Stewards helped me achieve that. Thanks team!"

I was amazed and inspired by the quality of the speakers and how willing they were to give their time to the program..."
Take the time to check the Nature Stewards Website. <https://outdoorsvictoria.org.au/nature-stewards/>

On December 14th and 21st 2019, Dr Graeme Lorimer ran two sessions on the identification of grasses using the Club's facilities and microscopes. 24 participants undertook the two day course. We will be running a number of FNCV sessions on other subjects throughout the year.

Photo Max Campbell

Maxwell Campbell



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are held at the FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia St. Blackburn at 8 pm., unless otherwise indicated. On days of extreme weather conditions, excursions may be cancelled. Please check with leader.

February 2020

Sunday 2nd - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: *Birdsland, Belgrave Heights*

Meet at 10 am in the car park about 700m off the bottom of McNicol Rd. We will walk around the wetland and lakes. <https://www.google.com/maps?q=-37.9234,145.3369>

Contact: Reiner Richter fncv@rn.id.au **Prior registration essential.**

Monday 3rd - Fungi Group—No Meeting

Tuesday 4th - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: *Biogeography of murine rodents (Rodentia: Muridae), from adaptive radiations to threatened species.*

Speaker: Dr Kevin Rowe, Senior Curator of Mammals, Museums Victoria.

Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury6@gmail.com

Monday 10th - Marine Research Group Meeting: *2019 World Whale Conference.*

Speaker: Kristina Cook. Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Saturday 15th— First Aid Training 12 noon. *CPR & Defibrillation.*

Prior registration essential. Cost \$40. See FNN p5

Contact: FNCV office. admin@fncv.org.au; 9877 9860

Sunday 16th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: *Wirrawilla Rainforest, Toolangi*

Meet at 10 am in the car park at the end of Quarry Rd, off Sylvia Creek Rd, Toolangi. <https://www.google.com/maps?q=-37.5276,145.5211> Contact: Reiner Richter fncv@rn.id.au **Prior registration essential.**

Sunday 16th to Wednesday 19th - Marine Research Group Field Work: *Port Welshpool area.* Exact locations will be decided while on site. For further details contact Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773 **Prior registration essential.**

Tuesday 18th—Collate FNN 305 Starting about 10 am. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 19th - Microscopy Group Meeting: Speaker to be advised. Contact: Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389

Thursday 20th – Botany Group Meeting: *Fifty years of wandering around Australia.*

Speaker: Geoff Lay, bushwalker, botany enthusiast & photographer. Contact: Ken Griffiths botany@fncv.org.au

Thursday 20th to Monday 24th - Fauna Survey Group Survey: *Reptiles in Hattah-Kulkyne National Park.*

Prior bookings essential. Contact: John Harris 0409 090 955; wildlifeexperiences@gmail.com

Sunday 23rd – Juniors' Group Excursion: *Point Cook Marine Sanctuary.* Leader: Andrew Christie, Lecturer at Melbourne Polytechnic. Meet 9.45 am. **Bookings in advance essential.** Contact: Patricia Amaya juniors@fncv.org.au

Monday 24th—FNCV Council Meeting: 7.30 pm sharp. Apologies or agenda items to Wendy Gare admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 25th – Day Group Meeting 10.30 am for coffee and a chat, presentation at 11 am.

Speaker: Alyson Fysh. *Studying Komodo Dragons in Indonesia.* All welcome. Contact: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 26th – Geology Group Meeting: *Victorian Polar Ornithopod Dinosaurs.* Speaker: Ruairidh Duncan, Honours Student, Swinburne University. Contact: Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; 0425 729 424

Friday 28th – Juniors' Group Meeting: *7.30 pm Windfarms & the environment*

Speaker: Paul Villiers, windfarm engineer. Contact: Patricia Amaya juniors@fncv.org.au

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The policy of the FNCV is that non-members pay \$5 per excursion and \$3 per meeting, to contribute towards Club overheads. Junior non-member families, \$4 for excursions and \$2 per meeting.

Calendar of Events, continued from p3

Fauna Survey Group Special Survey Twice Monthly from October 2019 to March 2020

'Tile Boxes' as a tool to increase capture success of Reptiles Venue: Grasslands in Melbourne's west. Fridays and/or weekends. No prior experience necessary as training will be provided.

Prior booking is essential. Contact: Andrej Hohmann 0410 934 779 andrej_hohmann@yahoo.com.au

Members' news, photos & observations

We always have space for members' photos and natural history observations. Please share with us what you have noted in your daily life, travels or garden. Email: fnnews@fncv.org.au by the first Monday in the month.

Welcome Welcome

Warmest greetings to the following new members who were welcomed at our last Council meeting.

Kristen Agosta, Steven Walsh, James Mackay, Naomi Strong and Barbara Ireland.

Vale Edna Shaw

The Club is saddened to hear of the death of Miss Edna Shaw who passed away on 31 December 2019 at the age of 95.

Edna joined FNCV in 1992. By her own reckoning, she contributed little to the Club, but was pleased to remain as a subscribing, if somewhat inactive, member. In a letter to Sheila Houghton in August 2003 she wrote: 'far from contributing to the Club, the FNCV has done more for me than I can ever hope to pay back.'

She may not have attended meetings or fieldtrips, but Edna did contribute significantly to the Club. Over a number of years, she regularly purchased books from the Club's bookshop. These were all destined for placement in the Shaw Collection of Australian Art and Culture, which is held in James Cook University's Eddie Koiki Mabo Library in Townsville. Edna had established this collection, and continued to donate volumes, in honour of her father, John Vernon Shaw, a local businessman who died in 1958.

As a long-term resident of Box Hill South, Edna had an abiding interest in the local Wattle Park. In 1991, changes in management of the area allowed the possibility of inappropriate development in the Park. As a leading member of a Residents Action Group and Friends of Wattle Park, she lobbied—with some success—to prevent the construction of a large playground that would impact on the history and nature of the Park. She also contributed to the FNCV study of Wattle Park natural history, carried out by Ian Faithfull in May 1992.

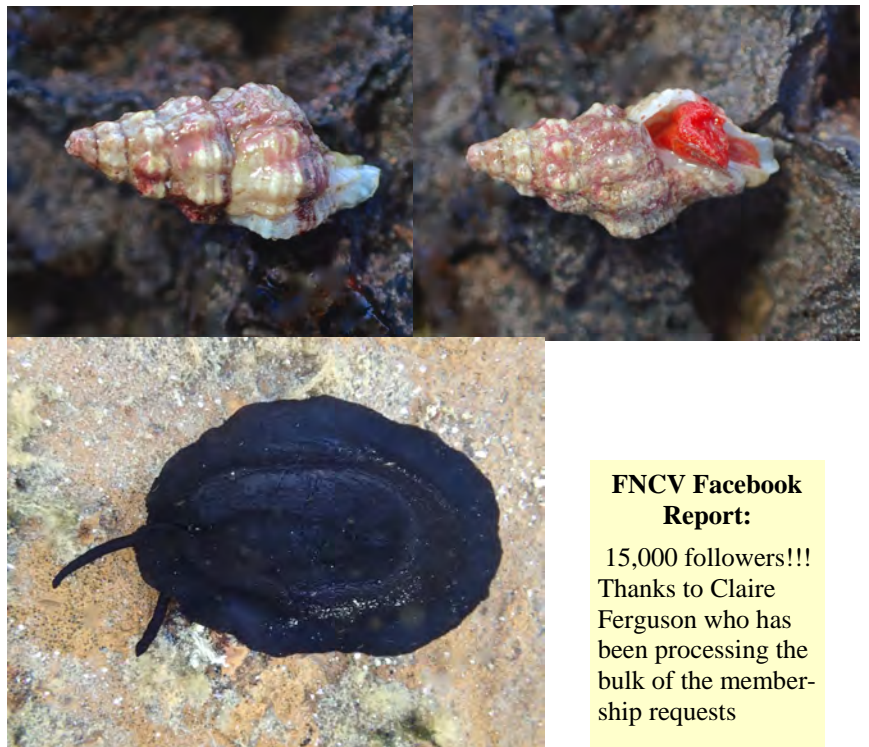
The Club extends its sympathies to Edna's family.

Finds at Ricketts Point John Eichler

In early April 2019 some friends and I spent a few hours searching the inter-tidal zone at the 'teahouse reef' where Val Stasic and I made the following potentially interesting finds.

The first is a small gastropod, *Microcolus dunkeri*, which has a distinctive bright red animal. Port Phillip Bay records of this species in the Atlas of Living Australia are centred on the Bellarine Peninsula, with no records from the northern half of the bay.

The second is the well known Elephant Snail, *Scutus antipodes*. For this species Atlas of Living Australia records for Port Phillip come from the Nepean and Bellarine Peninsulas (I have also seen one specimen at Frankston South) with no records from the northern half of the Bay.



FNCV Facebook Report:

15,000 followers!!!
Thanks to Claire Ferguson who has been processing the bulk of the membership requests

Training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Dear Members,

We have organised for a 2 hour course in CPR training to be held in our hall at



**12 noon on Saturday
15th February.**

The date is very apt because you can fix your heart if it's broken on Valentine's Day the day before ☺

The course will cover Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and using a defibrillation machine (defib). **The cost to you is \$40.**

Prior registration is mandatory, but there is no pre course work. It does not give you a first aid certificate, it just gives you the skills and knowledge. The person running the course, Helen McGrath of Total First Aid Training, comes to us very highly recommended.

Please officially register by replying to this email as soon as possible, then I will send you further information about on line enrolment and how to pay. You will need to do this even if you have previously registered interest in attending.

The final date to register is 31st January.

Regards
Wendy Gare
Administration Officer

FNN 2019 INDEX

The yearly index to Field Nats News is now compiled in digital form and will be sent to all members receiving their FNN by email with the February 2020 newsletter. Those who receive a printed copy of FNN or who would like a paper copy of the index should contact the office.



Once again the newsletter team would like to express their thanks to Pat Grey for her continuing hard work in compiling the index.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the FNCV.

BOX-IRONBARK BIRDING



Birding Tours and Accommodation

Location is a magnificent 257ha Trust for Nature covenanted property bordering the Heathcote Graytown National Park in Central Victoria.

Enquire about our Bird ID courses.

**For further details
contact Manfred Ruff on
0408 548 840 or email
boxironbarkbirding@bigpond.com**

www.boxironbarkbirding.com.au



**Thanks to the
editorial and layout
team who put
together FNN 304**

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher

**Many thanks to those who
helped collate and label
FNN 303**

Andy Brentnall
Edward Brentnall
Hazel Brentnall
Sheina Nicholls
Joan Broadberry
Neil McLachlan
Barbara Burns



Fauna Survey Group

Camera Results from Ralph Illidge Sanctuary

Our surveillance cameras were brought in on Tuesday, but unfortunately there were no images of Potoroos. We did get hundreds and hundreds of shots of Bush Rats, Agile Antechinus, some Black Wallabies and lots of videos of Sugar Gliders in the Extension area. The cameras also confirmed that both Bush Rat and Agile Antechinus are present in the Extension area as well as the original sanctuary.

I have put some videos on our Facebook page (including Sugar Glider), but here are some of the still shots.

Yours for mammals
Peter Homan



bookshop@fncv.org.au

for any orders or bookshop queries.

If you don't have access to email,
the FNCV office will pass on your
message. Kathy will then be in
contact with you.

Extracts from SIG reports given at the November 2019 FNCV Council Meeting

Botany Group: Meeting, Thursday 21st November.

Megan Hirst of the science staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens Vic, explained the goals, methods and results of an extended research project focussed on the alpine daisy *Brachyscome*.

Why do species occur where they are? What makes a species rare? Numerous variables were tested, using seven *Brachyscome* species. Seed was collected. Propagation in different habitats was one method. Near Falls Creek, Buckety Plains (broadly adapted) and Ruined Castle (locally adapted) were two sites. Two academic papers resulted.

Finally, "Conservation horticulture aims to retain genetic and phenotypic variation present in natural populations, while commercial production seeks a uniform product, often through clonal propagation or the use of highly selected seed." Hirst et al (2019) 'Raising rarity'. Eleven people attended.

Ken Griffiths.

Fauna Survey Group: Meeting, 12th November. The speaker for the night was William Terry from the Macedon Ranges, on the topic *Chainsaw Hollows and the conservation of the Brush-tailed Phascogale*. In forests where there is a shortage of hollows, nest boxes are often erected to create artificial places for arboreal animals to nest and breed in. However nest boxes are short lived and also lack the insulation of a hollow in a tree. An alternative is to create a hollow in the tree trunk. This was done by cutting a hollow using a small chainsaw into the trunk, and then attaching a wooden face plate with an entrance just big enough to let in Phascogales and Sugar Gliders. Animals were using the hollows as soon as one week. Tests showed that the created tree hollows were more temperature-stable than nest boxes. There were no tree fractures in winds up to 87km per hour. Further information at www.thephascogaleproject.com

Surveys. Wildlife remote cameras that had been set up in Annuello Nature Conservation Reserve, 29th September to 5th October were retrieved after three weeks. The pictures were mainly of reptiles and birds. Brown Snake, Sand Goanna, Western Blue-tongue, Central Bearded Dragon, Echidna, Western Grey Kangaroo, Crested Bellbird, Chestnut Quail-thrush were some species seen. Disappointingly, no small mammals were in the pictures and some feral species including a cat, goats and pigs were recorded.

On the 1st to 5th November the group visited the Ralph Illidge Sanctuary at Naringal East. This survey has been reported in the newsletters.

R. Gibson

Juniors' Group: This month we had our Melbourne Cup Camp (2nd - 4th November) at Scarsdale, Ballarat. We visited Devil's Kitchen Geological Reserve, Nimons Bridge, Enfield State Park and Clarksdale Bird Sanctuary. William Elder from Ballarat Field Nats kindly offered his property for our camp. The attendance was low, most likely due to poor weather report and lack of camping experience amongst new members. Two families (both members) took part in the camp (total seven people). We had great excursion leaders and a wonderful presentation from Emily Noble about wild Orchids. The weather was good despite the forecast.



We also had an excursion on 17th November to Studley Park with Ken Griffiths.

This was amazing and a great private geology lesson to those children attending. Total of six people attended. There was a delay in sending information regarding the excursion to the juniors that could have affected the number of participants.

Our meeting for November was on the 29th. Lydia Low from Primescience talked about DNA.

Thanks to FNCV information provided, Mackenzie Kwak was invited to give a talk to the Juniors on the 5th December.

Patricia Aymara

Terrestrial Invertebrates Group: At the meeting on 20th November, the presenter Reiner Richter showed his new Dragonfly and Damselfly identification book. Many copies of the book were purchased by the enthusiastic attendees.

Max Campbell



Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

Braeside Park, 10th November, 2019

Having last visited this site in February it got its turn early in the season this time around. Interestingly in February we recorded more of an even distribution in our observations, but this time the closer we got to the wetland the less we found. Also, we might just be better at recording because we made almost twice as many observations this time – both times around 60% were insects and 20% spiders.

Some observations of note were two similarly-sized leaf beetles under bark on the same tree. The darker one with the red spots is *Paropsisterna nigerrima*, which has several color variations, including one very similar to *Paropsisterna rufobrunnea*, the second of which we saw. It was thought for a time that the red one was the same species as the black one – Martin Lagerwey made additional comments for these on iNaturalist.

We saw several lady-beetle species, the most common being *Harmonia conformis*, for which we saw pupa, larvae and adults on the blackwood wattles near the car park. We also

saw lots of large (for mites) reddish *Rainbowia* sp. mites, many more than I had previously seen in my lifetime.

Near the wetlands were numerous weedy spear thistles *Cirsium vulgare*. It is always worth checking these for the possible presence of the two biocontrol species released a few years ago: the tiny weevil *Rhinocyllus conicus* and fly *Urophora stylata*, both of which were present.

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/2019-fncv-braeside-park>

Reiner Richter



Paropsisterna nigerrima

Photo: John Eichler



Paropsisterna rufobrunnea

Photo: Paul George



Rainbowia sp.

Photo: Carol Page



Rhinocyllus conicus

Photo: Paul George



Urophora stylata

Photo: Paul George



Brisbane Ranges

24th November 2019

This was the first ever visit to the Brisbane Ranges by the TIG. There were a few insects about on top of the hill where we met, but things were very rewarding once we reached Grahams Creek, which had large pools of clear water with thick, tall grass alongside to offer good shelter for small insects. Because of this water there were numerous damselflies about, including many mating pairs of Swamp Bluet, an uncommon species and the busiest site I've ever seen.

At one spot there were several of two species of land planarians sheltering – they feed on small invertebrates they can catch with their sticky bodies. There were also beetles and spiders on the nearby wattles and gum trees and the various songs from numerous birds added to the senses so we ended up spending most of the day there. Later we still saw a few orchids and some grasstrees in flower but they had surprisingly few insects on them.

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/2019-fncv-brisbane-ranges>



Austrocoenagrion lyelli Photo: Reiner Richter

Reiner Richer



Lenkunya munda

Photo: Paul George



Peltoschema suturale

Photo: John Eichler



Araneus talipedatus

Photo: John Eichler



Doratifera oxleyi

Photo: Paul George



Day Group

The Inside Passage, Sea Otters, Alaska and the Yukon

The speaker for the November 2019 Day Group was Joan Broadberry who gave a presentation on her trip to Alaska and the Yukon in June-July 2018.

The journey to Alaska began at Bellingham Washington State USA, aboard the Marine Highway ferry *Columbia*. The Alaska Marine highway Service, (AMHS) is a scheduled ferry service founded in 1948 that allows travel by ship along the North American west coast to Alaska. It serves isolated communities cut off by mountain ranges or situated on islands. For example, Juneau the capital of Alaska has no road access. The Inside Passage is the southern 500 miles of this route which weaves its way between islands allowing the ferries to travel in sheltered waters. Carrying less than 500 passengers these small ships are able to navigate narrow channels. The scenery of the Inside Passage is spectacular, Sheltered waterways, spruce-covered islands, snow-capped mountains, glacier-fed rivers, small coastal communities and the possibility of observing wildlife such as orcas, whales, sea otters, seals, porpoises and birds. The timetabled ferries effectively act like buses, pulling into small settlements for a few hours to load and unload cargo and passengers.

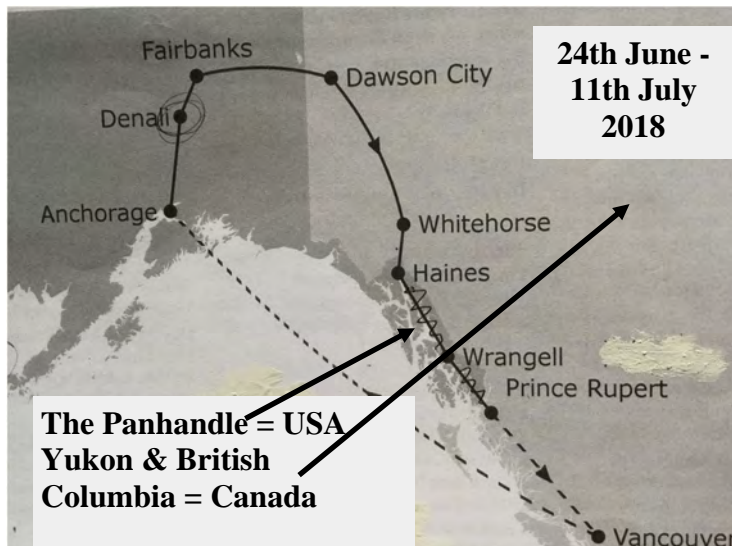
After three nights travelling on the Marine Highway, the first stopover was in the world heritage Glacier Bay National Park which is situated in Coastal Temperate Rainforest. Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock are the most common species of tree, with the vivid green forest draped with lichens. 27% of the park is covered with ice. Animals seen close to the Glacier Bay Lodge included Black Bear and Moose, the largest species of deer. A full day boat trip into the heart of the Glacier Bay fjord resulted in sightings of Steller's Sea Lions, Grey Wolf, Tufted Puffins, Harbour Seals, Bald Eagles and Sea Otters.

Sea Otters have the thickest, densest fur in the animal kingdom, once known as 'soft gold' and were hunted almost to extinction. A moratorium on hunting in 1911 resulted in the species rebounding, although they are still listed as threatened. Sea Otters eat sea urchins, shell fish, crustaceans and fish and have many endearing habits. They rest and swim mainly on their backs and use their chests and tummies as tables and to carry their young. They employ stones as tools to dislodge prey under water and to open shells on the surface. Sea Otters rest together in single sex groups called rafts. To avoid being separated from each other or their babies they wrap up in kelp and have been observed to 'hold hands' whilst sleeping. Two flaps of skin under their armpits are used to carry food to the surface and these pouches have been documented as storing a Sea Otter's favourite stone.



Internet photo

After a flight to Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska 275,000 (40% of the state's population), the next part of the holiday was a three week, escorted small-group tour. The route is shown on the accompanying map. Space permits only a brief account of the trip.



The six million acres of Denali National Park, encompass a complete sub-Arctic wilderness ecosystem. Denali has just one access road of 92 miles. A fabulous day was spent on a ranger-led full day excursion into the park. Glacial features are everywhere. These include braided rivers, outwash plains and stranded bounders, while the many peaks and glaciers of the Alaska Range dominate the horizon. Wildlife sightings included Dall Sheep, Caribou, Grizzly Bear, Red Fox, Snowshoe Hare, Arctic Ground Squirrel and Red Squirrel. Unfortunately the magnificent Mt. Denali, the highest peak in North America at 20,310 feet, was in cloud.

The next large town was Fairbanks, only 200 road miles from the Arctic Circle. The tour then crossed the border to Dawson City in the Yukon, Canada. Dawson City is inseparably linked to the Klondike Gold Rush (1896-99) and is successful in preserving its history. The streets have been

(Continued on page 11)

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left unmade and its picturesque streetscapes showcase 17 historically significant buildings e.g. post office, saloons, gambling hall. In addition there are eight national historic sites in close proximity such as the Discovery Claim, where gold was first found.

Whitehorse is the capital and the largest city in northern Canada. Another amazing day was spent riding the spectacular narrow-gauge White Pass Railway linking Whitehorse with Skagway on the coast. The railway is an incredible feat of engineering built with great hardship at the height of the Klondike gold rush, to provide access to the goldfields.

Dawson City and Whitehorse, the Capital of the Yukon, are both situated on the mighty Yukon River which at 1,980 miles in length is crossed by only four vehicle-carrying bridges. The Yukon is an important wilderness highway in summer and continues to be in winter after it has frozen.

Back into Alaska, based in the town of Haines, originally a Russian and Native American trading post, the group went on a spectacular full-day, return trip to Juneau via the 2,000 foot deep fjord known as the Lynn Canal. The next day, July 4th American Independence Day was celebrated with the locals.

The last few days, heading south, was again aboard Marine Highway ferries. A stopover in Wrangell, a small town of 2,400 people, promised some final highlights. Petroglyph beach is the site of the highest concentrations of petroglyphs in Alaska. They are images engraved into rock by pecking or carving. Their creators and purpose are shrouded in mystery. A magical day on the Stikine River led to the terminus of the Chief Shakes Glacier after passing through a fair-lyland of blue icebergs.

Possibly the most eagerly awaited activity of the entire three weeks was the excursion, by boat, to the Anan Bear Observatory. A platform has been constructed over a small waterfall on Anan Creek. Starting in July the creek has one of the earliest pink salmon runs of the season. The waterfall is a barrier to the salmon migration, meaning hundreds of the fish congregate in the pool below it. Both Black and Grizzly bears are attracted to this rich food source. The animals, including mothers and cubs, take little or no notice of the people watching from the platform and behave completely naturally. It was an unforgettable experience as was the entire trip.



Joan. Broadberry



Photos: J. Broadberry

FNCV CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday 7th December 2019 FNCV members and friends joined together to celebrate another year of learning, discovery and friendship. Judith Sise and Philippa Burgess decorated the hall and organised the raffle. A wonderful selection of sweets and salads together with wine and a bbq cooked by Max Campbell and Ray Gibson, provided a much appreciated, delicious feast.

As a reminder of what we have achieved, images of the many activities undertaken over the year were projected during the evening. Special thanks to Gary Presland for putting this presentation together at very short notice.

As always there were many lovely prizes donated for our annual raffle which raised \$186 for the Club.

Thanks to the many people who helped out to make this a very enjoyable evening.



Photos: J. Broadberry



A few photos from the December TIG excursion to the Maranoa Garden.



Photos: J. Broadberry