



May 2021

Dear Members,

I HOPE WE can share a little optimism for the months to come with greater freedom and better weather to bring us some cheer. We continue to offer monthly Zoom talks, new Digital Competition Titles and a possible return to our usual meeting on the second Tuesday in July? Thanks to Phil and Sue for the article on continued travels around America and for my part a little tour around the city of Perth in Western Australia.

Diana Wyss - Secretary 📷



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Membership Contact Details

CHRIS HALL WISHES to remind members to let her know if any of your contact details should change so that we can ensure you are always kept up to date. 📷

Subscriptions 2021-22

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR this last year have been waived but those for the upcoming year will be collected in September. We are also aware that deposits are owed for the cancelled Bletchley Park outing and will be refunded when we next meet. 📷

Website

OUR WEBMASTER MO Coles is continually improving the club site and a new feature is the ability to view the judge's comments underneath each image. The results and comments will still be sent out as received by Alf but you will then be able to click on the images to reveal the relevant comments. This can now be seen for the March competition. The easiest way to access the club website is via the Redirect link on hadleighcameraclub.com 📷

DIGITAL COMPETITIONS

Entries to alfbutler33@gmail.com

It has been decided to provide an extra challenge by announcing July's subject at the beginning of that month so that the image is actually taken during that period. 📷

Month	Subject Title
May	Wild Flowers
June	Stories
July	TBA
August	Shadows
September	Speed/Movement
October	Red
November	Windows
December	Chimneys



Our travels in an **RV IN AMERICA**

PART 2 by Sue & Phil Stepney

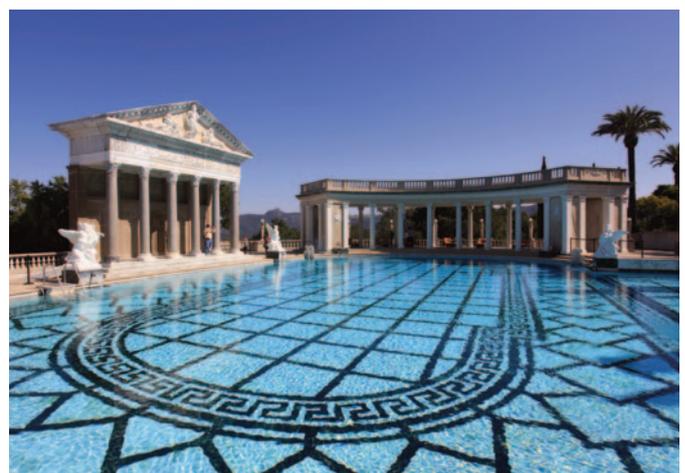


IT IS APRIL 2013 and we picked up our RV from where it had been stored in Las Vegas. This 8 week trip took us across to Los Angeles all the way north to Seattle then east to Bozeman Montana before heading south through Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Salt Lake City, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park and back to Las

Vegas. This was such a long trip and so full of memories, it is going to be difficult to select just a few from 2000 plus images to give you a flavour of that time, Once again all images were taken on either a canon 5d Mk2 and a canon G10. The following are just a few highlights from the journey.



Hearst Castle is situated approximately half way along the California coast line and was built between 1919 and 1947 for the publishing



tycoon William Randolph Hearst. He left there in 1947 as his health declined and after he died in 1951 the family gave the property to the State of

California in 1957. Interesting to note that our own Winston Churchill was one of the many influential guests of Hearst and stayed at this plush property.



I have always been an admirer of the work of Ansel Adams and wanted to take some photos in Yosemite, one of his favourite places. This is one of my all time favourite images and ironically very similar to one he took in 1953 at pretty much the same location. I only realised this a month ago when looking at the images on my Ansel Adams calendar for 2021. Honest!

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From Yosemite we travelled in to San Fransisco and then continued North through the giant redwood forests, we did see the chandelier tree which has an opening at the bottom wide enough for a car to fit through but certainly not big enough for the RV!

Interestingly a number of people who had ventured through had suffered bumps judging by the number of scuff marks and gouges in the tree!



Into Oregon and in an area which may get hit by a Tsunami we were amazed to see some local survival instructions on a board "Run like Hell". Folk were very friendly in Oregon, here we ran into a major problem with our brakes and both campsite and garage were very helpful in getting us sorted. We also found the ladies in gas (petrol) stations were eager to speak with me on spotting the Connecticut plate and even more eager when this "East Coast American" spoke with a British accent! On the border of Oregon and Washington state we followed the Columbia River Gorge for a while before heading towards Mt Ranier and then on to Seattle. We stayed on a site a few miles outside Seattle and were able to travel into the City by bus and train.

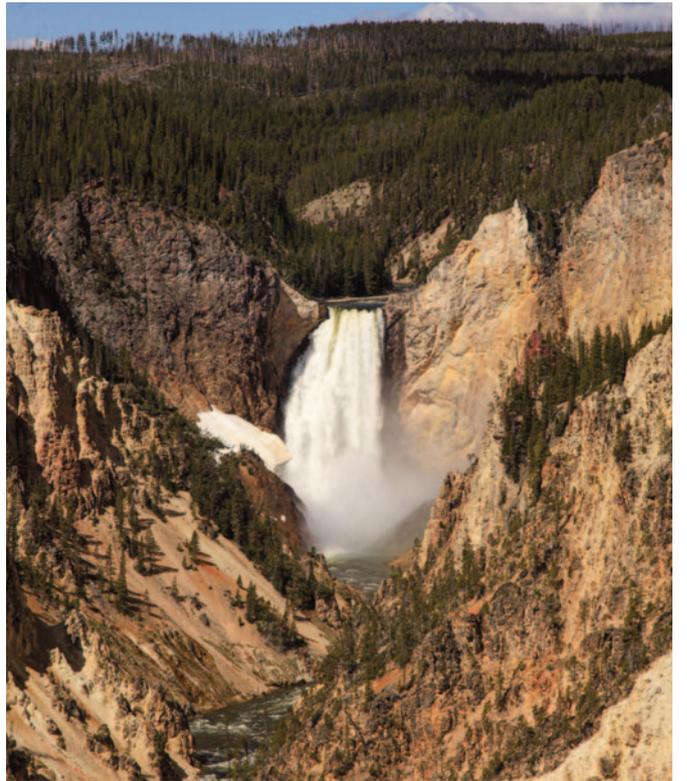
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The Columbia River Gorge is famous for the number of waterfalls it has and for us the falls above were the most spectacular. Wedding shots are frequently taken on the bridge. Amongst other things Seattle was memorable for the beautiful crab we had for lunch on the waterside. It also has an underground tour which follows the original street level before the city

was devastated by fire in 1889. The city is now effectively built one storey above its original level. The main reason for this is that before the fire and due to the plumbing systems, sewage used to flow back twice a day as the tide came in which was a particular problem for properties near the bay!

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Following our stay in Seattle we headed east across Washington State and Idaho before travelling South again through Montana and in to Yellowstone NP.

Our homework suggested we would be better off in a car whilst exploring Yellowstone so we hired one for 3 days and what a good idea that turned out to be as in those 3 days we covered over 500 miles! We were also lucky that the roads leading to the higher altitudes in the park were opened on our final day so we were able to get a view of the Gorge on the previous page. The white to the side of the waterfall is thick ice

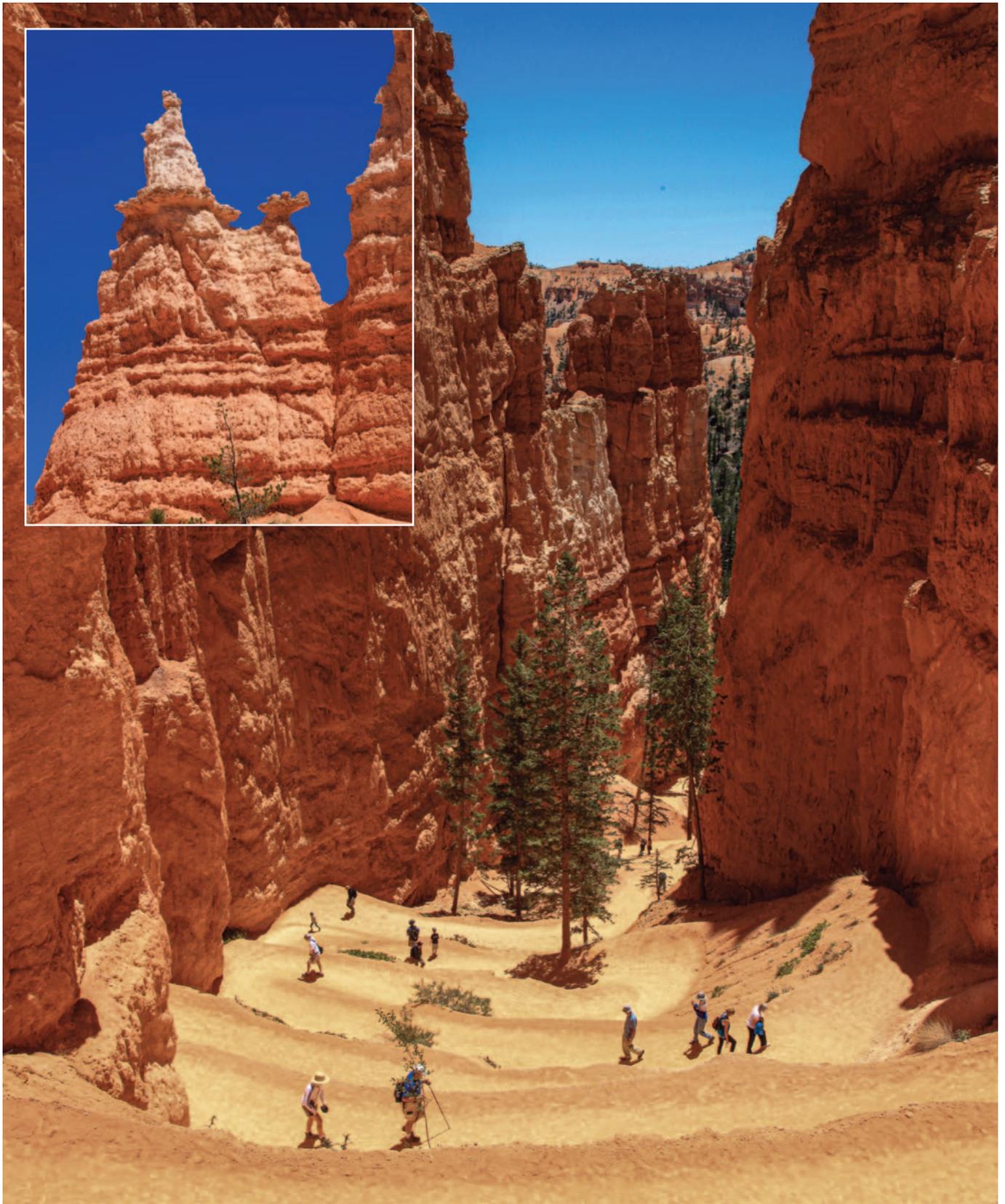
hanging to the side of the gorge. We were lucky to see wolves, bald eagles, a moose, elk, a black bear and so many buffalo which had a habit of strolling along the roads. The colours in the mineral springs were extremely rich and some caused by tourists throwing coins into them. There were lots of parking areas and many board walks taking you across the active areas.

After leaving Yellowstone we continued South now in Wyoming which took us through the Grand Tetons (picture below) and into Jackson Hole which reminded us of the cowboy towns we had seen in Westerns.



Crossing the street in Jackson Hole

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Our next port of call was Salt Lake City which we found rather clean and clinical; however, we had an interesting conversation with a family we met out in the lake area. During the previous trip we stopped at a museum in Fort Bluff and a gentleman had kindly told us the interesting history behind it as a staging post for Mormons

travelling West. Well it turned out that the man of the family we spoke to on Salt Lake was the son of the gentleman at Fort Bluff.

From Salt Lake City we travelled back to Las Vegas via Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park.

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Both Bryce Canyon, images on page 8, and Zion afforded spectacular scenery.

They are also vast open spaces and some idea of scale can be seen from the size of the figures descending into the canyon. The structures seen in Bryce Canyon are known as hoodoos. The hoodoo pictured above is known as Queen Victoria and you can see the similarity with various statues of her. We tried to imagine what the above hoodoo would look like in the place of the Queen Victoria statue in Southend!

A long tunnel joins the two parks wide and high enough for two cars; however, not high enough for the RV unless travelling in the middle of the road. The system for us was to phone in advance and they arrange to shut the tunnel to 2 way traffic whilst we went through.

Zion has some beautiful rock structures and the benefit of a river running through it and

eventually into a gorge. To get a shot I did wander into the river balancing on rocks. That went well until I missed my footing and plunged in though fortunately it was not deep at that point and the camera stayed dry!

Our final trip from West to East will be in the next instalment. 📷

ZOOM MEETING

May 11th at 8pm

"Our Photography Work and Hobby"

by Alison Jenkins

Take a look at her website at www.alison-jenkins.photography/lectures These talks have been excellent so do try to join us for what promises to be another interesting evening. Zoom details nearer the time. 📷

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES IN **PERTH**

by Diana Wyss



The City of Perth – Western Australia

HAVING ENCOURAGED MEMBERS over this last year to contribute articles for the newsletter, I thought that perhaps I should put pen to paper, or rather fingers to the keyboard myself. Perth has been an annual destination for us, until the pandemic struck, in order to visit my youngest daughter and family who live just north of Perth in the coastal suburb of Mullaloo. As a result, we have come to know and enjoy all that this city and surrounds have to offer. We all know Australia is vast but it is actually more than thirty times the size of the UK and WA itself occupies a third of the whole country's land area.

Kings Park – Botanic Garden

One of my favourite destinations in Perth is the beautiful Kings Park, a botanic garden which overlooks the Swan River and the city itself. It is home to over 300 native plants species and 80 bird species with some areas preserved as natural

bushland. The Banksia bush always fascinates me with its huge conical flowers which bloom most of the year and seems to thrive even on the highway verges. A particular attraction in the park is the iconic boab tree estimated to be 750 years old. It was a gift from the indigenous Gija peoples of the East Kimberley region and in 2008





Boab Tree

was transported over 3,200 km to Kings Park where it has been carefully monitored and nurtured. It is 14 metres high and 8 metres wide and the unusual bulbous trunk serves as its water reservoir. The trunks can grow so huge that stories tell of one that was hollowed out and used as a holding jail in a remote bushland township. Great, as long as prisoners are frisked beforehand for knives. The Park is also home to the State War Memorial with its Flame of Remembrance surrounded by a Pool of Reflection and a long avenue of trees are each marked with an individual plaque in dedication to those citizens who died in both World Wars.



War Memorial

Royal Perth Mint

The Perth Mint opened in 1899 in response to the first gold rush in Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie where gold diggers had flocked from around the world. At Perth Mint they could deposit the raw gold where it was refined and minted into gold coins. It was one of three British Royal Mints in Australia and remained so until 1970 when it was transferred to the Government of WA. Perth Mint



Gold Smelting

lay claim to producing “arguably the purest of all gold” in 1957 with a proof plate of 999.999 parts gold per thousand as verified by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in London. The Mint is preserved as a historic building and coins are now minted on another site on the outskirts of Perth. On our visit we were able to watch gold being smelted and poured into gold bars. When the furnace room is cleaned, every bit of dust is collected and checked for minute particles of gold. An interesting on-site museum tells the story of the gold rush with replicas of the largest gold nugget discovered in WA. It was found in a dry stream bed near Kalgoorlie weighing 25kg probably worth 800,000 Aus. Dollars or £400,000. A fun activity is the opportunity to be weighed and discovering how much you would be worth at current gold prices. [See ticket]. I keep telling my husband I am worth my weight in gold!

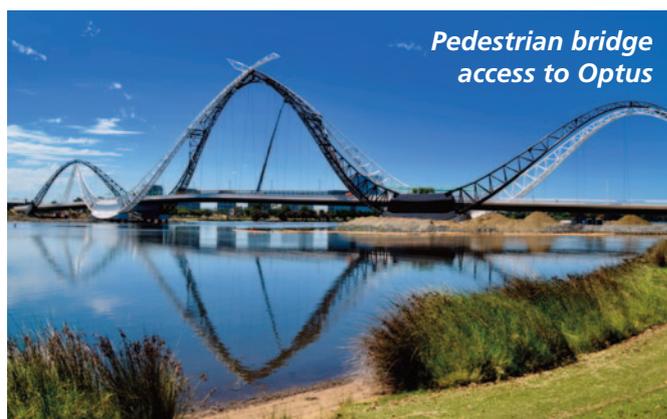


My weight in gold!





Optus Stadium



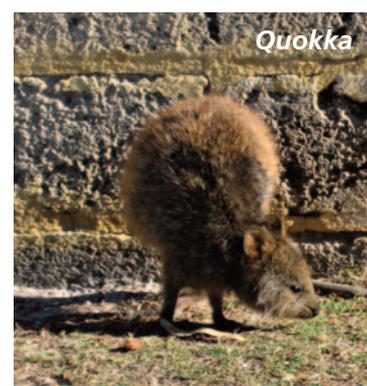
Pedestrian bridge access to Optus

Sports Events

Australians are keen sportsmen and women and those of you interested in cricket may have heard of the WACA – the Western Australian Cricket Association where many test matches and of course The Ashes have been played. That stadium has now been replaced by a super multi-purpose stadium seating 60,000 with its own station and magnificent pedestrian bridge linking East Perth to the new Optus Stadium {the name of a telecommunications company}. Not only cricket but the popular AFL, Australian Football League games are played here. Having watched this game, I can vouch for the fact that Aussie Rules is very physical, fast moving and exciting to watch. A cross between rugby and football with what appears to be no holds barred, not quite true!

Rottneet Island

This little island of just 7 square miles is an hour's ferry from Fremantle or 40 mins from a small harbour very near to where my daughter lives. We have stayed there several times and it really is an unspoilt holiday destination with mainly basic self-catering cabins, camping and two small simple hotels. Its charm lies in the fact that there are no cars allowed and so bicycles, walking or the local bus are the only means of transport. It is known for the population of





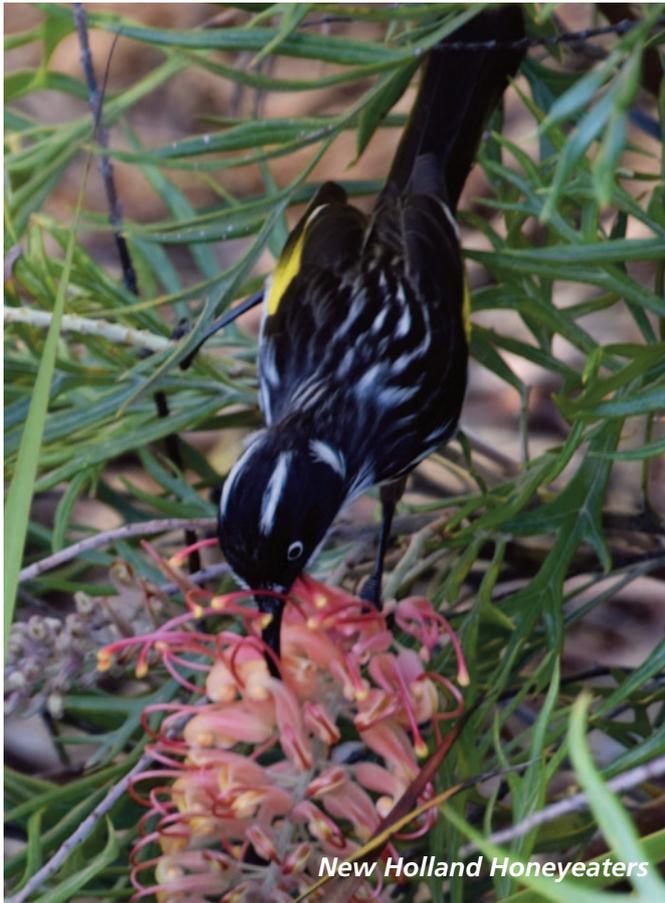
quokkas, a small native marsupial rarely found elsewhere as it has no natural predators on the island. In fact, the name Rottnest was adopted by Dutch sailors in the 17th century who thought the quokkas looked like rats hence "Rat's Nest Island". Naturally occurring salt lakes are home to many bird species such as red-necked avocets, curlew sandpiper and fairy tern to name a few. There are also colonies of sealions and Southern fur seals. Several pairs of osprey nest here each year and one nest is estimated to be 70 years old. Many reptiles, too numerous to name can be found around the rocks and dry scrubland and it is wise to keep a watch out for snake trails. We discovered this for ourselves when arriving at a little cove and finding a sheltered spot against some rocks to leave our rucksacks. Luckily a kindly Australian pointed to the sand where you could see trails left by snakes as they slithered out from the rocks. We hastily relocated and learnt there is often a good reason why no-one is sitting in a particular spot! Water activities such as paddle

boarding abound and there is even a snorkelling trail with information plaques on the seabed related to the types of coral and other marine life. It really is a beautiful and relaxing place to stay.

Australian Wildlife

It is difficult to even begin to list some of the animal species we have seen on our travels in Australia so I will confine it to those in and around Perth. From my daughter's house we can access a coastal bike trail and it is not unusual to see a snake crossing this path from the sand dunes. This is usually a Dugite which although venomous is timid and will mostly choose flight rather than fight. The natural reaction when this snake slithers across the path when cycling is to lift your legs up high from the pedals for fear it will get entangled in the wheel spokes! In the local park, Ibis stroll across the grass and feed on any scraps from BBQ's and flocks of white cockatiels roost in trees and then suddenly fly off making the most awful screeching sound. My daughter's garden is home to a family of Blue Tongued skinks [lizards] headed by Bob and are quite harmless unless provoked when they will then extend their large blue tongue, hiss and bare their teeth. It can be quite disconcerting if one suddenly appears, as in the photo, where it has just emerged from a parasol lying on the patio to eat a tomato! Mullaloo beach and the Indian Ocean is a few minutes' walk away and patrolled by the iconic Aussie Lifeguards.





New Holland Honeyeaters

The Great White shark is often seen in these waters but beaches are protected by acoustic detection receivers a kilometre offshore which when triggered, set off an alarm at the Life Saving Club and the ocean is quickly cleared of swimmers. We have only heard this alarm twice, one of which was on Christmas Day when families had flocked to the beach. In the last 20 years 18 people have been killed in shark attacks off the WA coast and many more non-fatal incidents so the threat is not to be taken lightly. Not intending to end on a low note, this country has provided



Blue tongued skink



Dugite snake

me with so many new experiences and of course a special reason for regular visits. I think that most of the photographs were taken on my little Panasonic TZ 60 or Nikon 3300 but I can't wait to return with my Nikon Z6 and explore all the photographic opportunities this country has to offer. 📷



Lifeguards at Mullaloo