



OH, THE PLACES I HAVE BEEN!

DIARY OF A JET SETTING SNARK

— by MARY O'MEARA MOYNIHAN

JANUARY 22 – NORTH CASCADE 230

Sidled into the crab feed having gone to three in California and Oregon the previous week. Had a wonderful time. About 100 people were displaying their method of shelling the crabs—some patiently pull the meat and amassing a pile—the very picture of quiet diligence. Then the others, including myself, tear into the crab for meat and immediately stuff the succulent contents into watering mouths and go back at it—some even bring their own tools along to make the job much more efficient! Sadly I did not win the gun raffle, but have no idea how I would explain that carry-on to security...I had a hard enough time with the Hoo-Hoo gavel when I left Canada!

JANUARY 27 – NORTH EAST WASHINGTON 238

Met with almost the whole club for a delightful dinner. **Jono Esvelt** spoke about the Fish Wildlife management program and the fish hatchery that he manages and instructs local high schoolers who choose to participate in the hatchery operation for class credit. I was proud to administer the Hoo-Hoo oath to **Becky Strite**. She is a local teacher who was instrumental in bringing back the forestry program to the local high school. Club members have been an excellent resource and offered input as she designed her curriculum.

JANUARY 28 – NORTHWEST MONTANA 187

The power of a group effort is amazing. Wonderful steak dinner at Montana Logging Association—bonfire first and some gentle ribbing about not having any women members. Aably led by **Taylor Quiram**, they sure have captured the youth in the board of directors and the club! This group donates, chops, and delivers wood to vets and those in need of fuel for winter heating. They are a major supporter of the A.L.E.R.T Air Ambulance which responds to logging and automobile accidents along with patient transport. They also support deserving area kids at Christmas time by providing gifts to them.

FEBRUARY 10 – SIOUX VALLEY 118

The event during the South Dakota Retail Lumber Association convention is always a rather spirited affair. Yearly, they concat a good number of members. Before the concat I had the opportunity to meet with the Board members to discuss issues facing all of our clubs: especially maintaining and recruiting members along with getting members to come forward to serve on the board. **David Siwek** and **Paul Boehmer** from our Twin Cities Club 12 were in attendance and driving “her highness” to and from Sioux Falls.



THE HUNTING OF THE SNARK —AUSTRALIAN STYLE

Well, they really only lost me a few times...

MARCH 20 — AUCKLAND 248

Fabulous dinner at Club President **Dave Pratt's** home that has an equally fabulous view. Attendees included **Ian & Ali McGregor**, Vicegerent **John Scholtens** (referred to by many as "the guy who always wears shorts") I am serious when I say that all through my travels in Australia and New Zealand if they were ever referring to a certain Auckland Club member, the clarifying comment was always that he only wore shorts! A simultaneous "ah ha" would ripple amongst the group. Back to our dining partners that evening—**Malcom & Penny Scott**, Secretary **Louise & John Edwards**, **Ross Moloney**, club historian **Colin Mason**, and Rameses 101 **Ron Gattone**. **Ross Moloney**, who hosted my stay, took Ron and me on a great boat and bus tour of Waiheke Island. This area of New Zealand is known for its Kauri trees which grow perfectly straight and are self-pruning and leaving no knots. The glory of Mother Nature!

MARCH 24 — LESCHENAULTIA 274

Harvey Strack met **Heather** and me at the Perth airport on March 23 and we had a delightful lunch. After good conversation and walking the grounds, we headed down to Bunbury. We were privileged to be the club's guests at the 2015 World Forestry Dinner. This is a yearly event hosted by the Leschenaultia Club and attended by both members and others from the forest industry. Delicious dinner and excellent speakers on the future of forestry and timber production plus forest management in relation to recent bushfires made for a wonderful evening. **Des Donnelly** drove the two Miss Daisies all around the surrounding areas. We spent a blissful time at St. Aidan Winery, toured the Ludlow Tuart Forest and walked the Cat Walk that the club built. Additionally, they constructed a covered shelter for students' use. Saw Jarra trees which are part of the eucalyptus family—they regenerate themselves. The lingo tubers (woody bush ball) will sit in wait for 100 years waiting for sunny opportunity to sprout up over 3 months. Saw kangaroos! They are all over the golf courses and their road signs warn of kangaroo crossings just like deer crossing here in Minnesota! Before leaving Bunbury, we participated in a morning club board of directors meeting. Thank you to **Greg Meachan** for making all of the arrangements! I also witnessed my first sunset on the Indian Ocean—beautiful!

MARCH 27 — BRISBANE CLUB 218

What an evening! Women in Wood—A salute to women who are powering the forest and forest products industries. I was so honored to part of this evening held at the Tara House, Irish Club of Queensland—complete with bagpiper and drummer. Escorted in by **Jim Bowden** to the lilt of Irish music and many women of Australia's timber industry. Hyne Industries were well represented by young women whose occupation ranged from foresters to marketing managers. It was a very special evening thanks to the Brisbane Club. My stay was hosted at the Royal Albert Hotel—felt like I was living with royalty!

MARCH 28 TO APRIL 4 — 45TH ANNUAL J-IV HOO-HOO CONVENTION

North East Victoria 236 hosted "The Cats Get Wet" as a cruise up the eastern and northern coast of Australia—departing from Brisbane on the Pacific Dawn, we sailed to ports in Airlie Beach, Cairns and Port Douglas. About 43 J-IV members plus their guests were in attendance. The clubs attending were **Adelaide 212**, **Mount Gambia 214**, **Sydney 215**, **Melbourne 217**, **Brisbane 218**, **North East Victoria 236**, **Launceston 239**, **Ballarat 256**, **Far North Queensland 261**, and **Leschenaultia 274**. The Ice Breaker is always one of my favorite part of any convention—it's when you get to see old friends (**Slim & Val Fennel**, **Kevin French**, **Ray Lamari**, **Colin & Raylee Moreland**, **Lindsay & Lorraine Morling**, **Raymond & Lizzie Sanders**, **Harvey Strack** and **Grant & Beth Williams**) plus get to know others better and make brand new ones. (**Bluey Nettles** and his daughter **Nicci**, **Gary & Julie Daniel**, **Norm & Leila Forbes**, **Tom Gordon**, **Ron Harrington**, **Tony & Ann Hopper**, **Len Lord**, **Jeff & Jenny Loton**, **Geoff & Tess Lucas**, **Sam & Jeannie Lynch**, **Brian McInnis**, **Greg & Joylynn McNulty**, **Lindsay Bohun**, **Brian & Sue Page**, **Lew Parsons**, **Robert & Sue Preston**, **Michelle Russel**, **Pat Shelton**, **Brian & Marilyn Stewart**, **Colin & Gianna Swadling**, **Trish Waters**) I was invited to attend their J-IV Board Meeting, led by outgoing president and **S9 Pieter Verlinden**, it was very interesting, with many pertinent subjects for their discussion. The meeting with all of the members was also really interesting—a few of the club presidents gave their Annual Report plus clubs were able to present their activities for consideration of the Outstanding Club Activity Award. As with

most Hoo-Hoo conventions, it would be wonderful if more clubs participated in the Activity Awards. **Heather Gattone** was installed as the J-IV president (S9). She returning to the HHI Board. Not to let anyone become too complacent and relaxed on this cruise, the J-IV Annual Challenge was a rollicking laser tag competition—it was a hoot! **Nicci Bettles**, our cruise organizer, took a dive across the ballroom floor that was unequaled by anyone! My, my, the personalities come out when you are “fighting” for survival! It was a wonderful week at sea—the weather fantastic, the sights incredible, and the company par excellence.

APRIL 5 — EASTER IN SYDNEY

Celebrated the day with the **Gattone family**—there had to have been 40 people at Ron’s mom and brother’s home. Food was Italian and the selections delicious—the family is full of lots of personalities, just like our family. Always someone to talk and share experiences. Did I mention the food was non-stop?

APRIL 6 — HOBART 235

Pieter Verlinden and I arrived to an evening dinner hosted by the club and attended by **Nick & Suzie Benetto, John & Pat Parkinson, Robert Eastment, Tarmo & Helen Torenienius**. I received a beautiful batik hand dyed rose and frangipani scarf. The following day on our way to Launceston, we stopped and toured the Torenienius’ sawmill. It is quite an operation, plus, along with their home, the mill was used as a movie set! The mill and its timber stacks represented the site of an old murder and their mill employees were extras in the film. They said it was quite an experience to have the movie crew roaming about.

APRIL 7 — LAUNCESTON 239

On our way up from Hobart to Launceston, **Pieter** and I stopped at the Richmond Bridge, a stone arch bridge built by convicts in the early 1820’s. Close by is a quaint old church, St John the Evangelist, built in 1836. The Penny Royal was our home base: the original building is ancient and quite lovely. The dinner that evening was attended by **Don & Val Cocker, Dennis & Elaine Fairfield, Errol & Wendy Foot, Paul & Lynette Holmes, Hugh & Katie Maclaine, John & Chris Tempest**—as always, most enjoyable! Club officer, **Dennis Fairfield**, was kind enough to drive us to the Trevallyn Nature Recreation Area to see the Hoo-Hoo Hut built by the club members with materials donated by club members and sponsors. It is quite a structure! Large a-frame with stone fire place and picnic tables. Our waitress at the Club dinner exclaimed “I grew up going to the Hoo-Hoo Hut! Now I know about the people who built it!” This club has also donated time, treasure and talent to the Launceston General Hospital’s Children’s’ Ward for long term patients. They provided funding for a large, bright play area that can be enjoyed by the young patients. The most recent project is the “Hoo-Hoo Siding”—a small wooden structure at the end of the “railroad line”, furnished with child size furniture. The morning we left we took a short hike up the Cataract Gorge—what a beautiful sight!

APRIL 8 — NORTH WEST TASMANIA 272

Before arriving in Burnie, **Pieter** steered the car to Sheffield for the International Mural Fest which was going on at the time. The town itself is full of murals—an Outdoor Art Gallery—depicting a broad spectrum of Tasmanian life and surroundings. We were able to watch the selected entrants work on their murals—it was two days to judging, and some still had “miles to go” with their brushes. The Australian blue skies and near by Cradle Mountain only added to the experience. Dinner that evening was hosted by the club at the Burnie Harness Racing Club—the location for most of their meetings. Another delicious meal (you can just hear the pounds going on...) I enjoyed meeting members of the club that was awarded the 2015 Award for Meeting Attendance! **Morris & Roslyn Bloom, Adriane & Leanne Coward, Jillian & Terry Groves, Diane & Michael Hardy, Tracey & Brett Jackson, Murray & Jennifer O’Connor, Neville & Pauline Smith, Lawrence & Andrea White**. They even had two future members in attendance—**Ken & Cheryl Last**. This club financially supports a program that spends two years training sight dogs. They also provide bike racks for kids in disadvantaged areas of their town. Additionally, they built two stainless steel and composite board park benches—they are quite sleek looking and very comfortable—these benches grace the oceanside walk in Burnie. Of note, this club was hit hard by the closing of a large plant and quite a few members have had job and industry changes. However, I don’t believe they lost a member during these hard times! A stop the following morning, as we were leaving Burnie, was at the Makers of Burnie—a fabulous working museum that highlights local artists and their crafts. It was amazing! (Word to the wise traveler who goes down under: when in Tasmania, do not say you are going back to Australia! You, my friend, are IN Australia.)

lia—you say “I am going back to the mainland”... When sitting in the car as a passenger, see how long it takes before you quite trying to look in the rear view mirror...)

APRIL 10 — MELBOURNE 217

Accompanied by **Heather Gattone**, we enjoyed shopping in the Block Arcade area built in 1891. I must say that a lot of good things happened in 1892—Hoo-Hoo was founded and so was the Hopetoun Tea Room—looking into the glass cases with all of the mouth watering pastries is an experience! The evening’s festivities was a gathering of members of Melbourne, NE Victoria, and Ballarat Clubs. Three highlights to especially note: I saw **Barbara Blackwell** who looked fabulous after just leaving a six-week stay in the hospital; **Richard Martin**, who my brothers and I first met in Milwaukee in 1995, and **Doug & Sigrid Howick**. **Doug** graciously presented me with a Concatenated Order of the Hoo-Hoo Sterling Souvenir Spoon—etched with Health, Happiness & Long Life in the “bowl” of the spoon. It was another fun night with another group of fun Hoo-Hoo’s!

APRIL 11 — ADELAIDE 212

Brian & Marilyn Stewart provided my airport pickup and we went for a tour of the city! Very pretty and very well planned by the early Aussies! Met with a small group of club members, the **Stewarts, Daniels, and Roger Jones**, at a wonderful ocean-side seafood restaurant. Highlight? (Not that I didn’t enjoy that seafood feast...) My first ever Australian Football League game at the Adelaide Oval! The Adelaide Power were playing Sydney, and even though they didn’t win, it was still quite an experience! They are very passionate about their team and the sport! I saw the Sydney team the following morning at the airport—a fine looking bunch of lads! **Gary & Julie Daniel** opened their beautiful home to me for my overnight in Adelaide. Again, everyone always is so hospitable!

APRIL 12 — NORTH QUEENSLAND 265

My good friend, **Ray Lamari**, picked me up, got me registered at the hotel and then we were off! A great dinner at the Australian Hotel Restaurant—outside, a balmy evening, gathered under the gazebo. One of the founding members of the club, **Neville Abbey** was in attendance, along with **John Geaney, John & Kath Hotschilt, Brendan Jorgensen, and Mark Spence**. I so appreciate the members finding time on a Sunday evening to come out for a “meet and greet”. Or at least I think it was Sunday, maybe Monday—you know, I never could figure out what day it was...

APRIL 13 — FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND 261

Ray and I got an early start and headed to Cairns. Our goal: pickup his four kids and get to the Skyrail for a gondola trip through the Rail Forest. Well, it seemed that the gondola was having problems—finally, we were able to depart. It was worth the wait! We went to three different stops and took some small hikes through the forest. This will be an event at the 2016 HHI Convention in Cairns and well worth it! I also stayed at the Pullman Hotel which will be the host hotel for the event. I had a beautiful water view of the canal and marina. (May I also say, if you enjoy gambling—casino directly across the street—if you enjoy shopping, a few steps down the street) A dinner with club members completed the evening. The following day, I was lucky to go on the “Reef Magic” catamaran boat out to the Great Barrier Reef for the day. This is another event included in your registration fee for the 2016 HHI Convention in Cairns. Snorkeling was wonderful along with the glass bottom boat ride and the semi-submersible tour through the area. You don’t even have to get wet if you don’t want to!

APRIL 15 — SYDNEY 215

Ron & Heather Gattone hosted a great get-together with more good food than you could shake a cat at! Honored to concat new members **Gianna Swadling** and **Angela Gattone** on the balcony with the night lights of Sydney serving as a back drop! I have to say that I have never had a trip more well planned than this trip to Australia and New Zealand. This was not my doing, but rather, **Heather** made all of my flight arrangements within the country, even had a black binder with every piece of info I would ever need. She is wonderful! Over my days in J-IV, I was often back in Sydney for a day or two, and was able to call **Ron & Heather Gattone’s** exquisite condo on Darling Harbor my home base. They are so hospitable and welcoming. And very patient with the fact that I kept trying to get into the drivers side on their vehicles... Heather took me shopping to her favorite haunts, drove me around to see the sights of Sydney. The Opera House, Bondi Beach, Vaucluse House were just a few. My eternal thanks to both **Ron & Heather** for opening their home to me.

APRIL 16 – VANCOUVER 48

Back in North America, arrived in time to participate in Vancouver Club's Reverse Draw Event at the Terminal City Club. Always a well attended event, this year I believe the numbers grew to 120 attendees. It's an evening that provides funding for their Evans Lake projects. It touched my heart to see **Jan-Evert Hermann** after so many years—it's been too long! **Jim Spiers**, **David Trytko**, **Chris Agassi** to name a few familiar faces that I was gifted with spending some time.

APRIL 17 – COWICHAN VALLEY 229

Jim Spiers and I caught the ferry to Vancouver Island on our way to the Cowichan Reverse Draw! Another highlight—saw **Fred Frudd** for the first time in years—I served on the HHI Board with **Fred** as S9's in the late 90's. As I observed last year, they serve steaks the size of **Gary Gamble's** hand at this event. Delicious! **Rocky & Jan Bradford**, along with **Clint Cowen**, were also in attendance—plus many others. I was even one of the winners of the final draw!

APRIL 19 – TACOMA OLYMPIA 89

I arrived late on Saturday into Seattle on the Clipper from Vancouver Island, and regrettably I was not able to attend the birdhouse building event held Saturday afternoon. However, God bless them, member of the club came and had brunch with me on Sunday. It was good to see **Al Meier**, as always, along with **Nancy Brown**, **Michael & Donita Clothier**, and **Jim Miller**. I plan on seeing this groups again at a club event.

THE EVENING OF APRIL 19 – BACK IN MINNESOTA

Always good to return home! People would always ask me when they hear about all of my traveling—"Which is your favorite place??" After thinking some on this question, I always say that I don't have a favorite place. Everywhere I went was wonderful, but that is because I am always visiting old friends and making new friends in Hoo-Hoo. And that is what it all comes down to—the friendships that are made in this association, this industry, are rare. I cherish the fact that I am able to gather socially with my customers, my vendors, and my competitors. I don't know other industries that accomplish this feat. Thank you to all those who welcomed me, chauffeured me, fed me, and made me laugh! You're forever in my Hoo-Hoo heart! Club officers and members and spouses who took the time out of their busy daily schedules to accommodate the Snark (aka The Queen, Her Highness, Royal Empress, Your Royal Snarkness) your kindness is etched in my heart. I am honored to serve in this role and envy those who follow me—it's the experience of a lifetime!

Health, Happiness, and Long Life!

— MARY O'MEARA MOYNIHAN 96820
Snark of the Universe