

CONNIE AND OWEN LEASE

These folks lend a new meaning to snowbird. In the winter a good number of Americans head south to Florida, Texas and points in between and in some instances southwest to Arizona and California. 'Tis better to have a heart attack on the golf course than shoveling snow off the driveway. Anyway that is just a wild guess on my part.

Connie and Owen headed a little bit farther south, Australia, to be more precise! Not only do you escape blizzards, which aren't too common in the south, but you actually get an entire new summer season for those of you who paid attention during your high school geography class.

I've heard tell some people in the teaching profession actually use their summers to expand their horizons, so to speak. Well, Owen was a professor, and that's pretty much what he and Connie did, traveling Australia during their summer break. When retirement eventually rolled around guess where they decided to spend their winters? Having traveled much of Australia and played a bit of golf along the eastern side they settled upon the Merimbula area. Check out a map of Australia, it's about halfway between Melbourne and Sydney and just east of Canberra.

The Parambula Merimbula Golf Club was their home course as well as that of their dear friends Ivi and Illar Streimann and Beth and Jack Thomson. As well as their home course they played Tura Beach, Tathre Beach, Bermagul, Eden and Bega County Clubs. You need to go online and check out the web sites for these courses as well as another thousand. Golf.org.au, ausgolf.com.au, and golf Australia will give an indication of how really beautiful this part of Australia is. Playing golf with deer, elk, geese and ducks all over the courses of North America is interesting, but probably doesn't hold a candle to mixing it up with kangaroos.

Well they were enjoying Australia so much and committing months at a time to these extended stays that the decision of purchasing a car and clubs that wouldn't need to be transported back and forth was pretty much a no-brainer. The apartment they were leasing had a boiler explosion that caused Connie a great deal of pain and scarring. Because of this the couple walked all eighteen holes to promote some flexibility and put off any atrophy associated with the injury. Their golfing Australia goes far beyond the bucket list prerogative, it is a lifestyle. Who of us could be this imaginative? Getting my mind wrapped around a month in Ireland or Scotland is one thing but going seasonal is beyond the limit of this poor old brain. Just needed to share this with you! It is pretty epic!

