

Where Are They Now?

We recently caught up with Past National President, and current Life Member of NEAFCS, **Barbara Maidment** (Eichner) before the 2020 NEAFCS Annual Session. Barbara was National President 1987-1988. She now lives in Western Australia.

“Thanks to the pandemic, all of my activities, including local government consulting, have come to an abrupt halt and only now (early August) are beginning to normalize. Western Australia called an immediate and sweeping lockdown, closing our international borders, state borders, and here in WA even our regional borders. For a long time, I couldn’t even go to Perth! Luckily the regional restrictions were lifted about 2 months ago so that allowed me to get a broken tooth fixed, do some shopping, and catch up with American friends.

“I still feel very isolated and trapped. I was due to visit my brother in Oregon this year, and of course that was cancelled, along with all my international involvements in IFYE and small business. For me, it’s been a nightmare and somewhat depressing. Even our church was instructed to close the building to ALL use, including our Sunday services (which all went online). Frankly, if I never have another Zoom meeting, it will be too soon!! However, having said all that, I recently rediscovered my love of crochet and have been making a ton of baby blankets, a few scarves, and a few other things. It keeps me sane! And now that our cafes, etc. have reopened, I am enjoying quiet coffees and lunch with friends.

“I remain President of the local high school School Board, as well as a member of the board of directors for our local Chamber of Commerce and the Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand (SEAANZ). With SEAANZ, I officially represent our interests in South Asia on the Board of the Asia Council for Small Business (ACSB), and attend the regional conferences. I often represent Australia to the Asia Regional IFYE Association and attend their conferences as well. As a member of the International Council for Small Business (ICSB), I also attend their international conferences when I can. So normally, I can be quite busy, but not at the moment...except online!”

