

# THE KAVANAGH GAZETTE

Volume 26

December 2019

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Welcome to the 2019 edition of *The Kavanagh Gazette*. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an update on the family out here in Oregon.

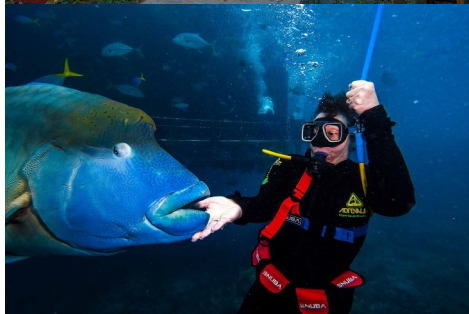
## 2019 Has Been a Great Year!

2019 was another busy year in the Kavanagh household. A quick rundown for this issue

- 30th Wedding Anniversary & 3.5 week trip to the Australia & New Zealand
- A near 2 week trip to France and a bit of Switzerland
- We welcome a kitten to the family
- A few other odds and ends...



Top left: View from our Sydney AirBnB  
Top Right: Trams and trains of Melbourne  
Mark and Cyn with a Koala at Featherdale Wildlife Park  
Mark ad Cyn at Hobbiton  
Cyn petting a Wally Fish at the Great Barrier Reef.



## Trip Down Under

We have been planning a trip to Australia for at least three years to celebrate our 30th Wedding Anniversary. We spent nearly 3.5 weeks down under, and it was not nearly enough time with all that there is to see.

We left on a Saturday by flying on Delta to LA, then Virgin Australia to Sydney. The Sydney flight was 14 hours. Somehow we skipped Sunday and landed on a Monday. Our AirBnB was wonderful that over overlooked the Sydney Harbour Bridge and was easy access to the trains to get around, it was a great place to spend 4 nights. We toured around the Sydney area for the next three days. The Sydney Tramway Museum was a must for Mark. He even got to see a little bit of behind the scenes. A morning was spent at Featherdale Wildlife Park, which allowed us to get personal with Koalas, Wallabies and other Aussie creatures. We even got to the beautiful Blue Mountains for a half day.

Soon it was time to say goodbye to Sydney to board our cruise ship to sail around New Zealand. It was a fantastic, 13-day cruise. The ship cruised through the scenic Fjordland National Park. This is the third set of Fjord we have been too around the world. We stopped at Dunedin and rode the Taieri Gorge train. Next Stop was Wellington, which we toured the city, and of course, rode the Cable Car. Napier was next which we thought would be nothing special, but we had a blast there. This is a wonderful Art Deco town in which we rode an open-top 1929 Buick through town. Then we were off to Tauranga. We took a tour that included attending a traditional Maori Haka, and Hobbiton. It was a long day, but so worth it!. The next stop was Auckland. Cyn stayed on board the ship to rest while Mark went to ride trams oat MOTAT, as it happened, it was the museum's Tram day with nearly all their trams operating. Mark was in heaven. The final stop in NZ was Bay of Islands, where they took a Maori Canoe trip, which was a great experience. That day was also our anniversary.

When the ship returned to Sydney two days later, we headed to the airport. We flew on Virgin Australia to Cairns up in the north. We spent two nights in an AirBnB in the center of this nice town. The entire purpose of this side trip was to head to the Great Barrier Reef. Nearly the entire day we were on a floating platform where Cyn not just snorkeled, she also tried out Snuba and got see the reef up close, including petting a large Wally fish. Mark took the boat trips offered as he is not a swimmer.

The following day we were back at the airport to fly Virgin to Melbourne via Sydney. We checked into our AirBnB across the street from Southern Cross Station with great views (including trains and trams). We spent four nights in Melbourne. Mark was in 7th heaven with the world's largest tram network. Mark was easily distracted like dogs are with squirrels. We toured around the city, which included a stop at the Melbourne Tram Museum (go figure). We eat hamburgers in a train car mounted on top of a building. We stopped at Luna Park to ride on of the oldest roller coasters that also includes a brakeman (or in our case, a brakewomen). We met up with some local tram fans for dinner. By this time, Cyn needed a day off, so Mark spent nearly a full day riding the trains and trams while geocaching.

But as with all things, the trip had to come to an end. We boarded a Virgin flight to Sydney, then onto a Delta flight to LA. This flight, we flew in Business Class with fully lie-flat seats. It was a real treat, especially on a long flight. Then onto Portland. Dylan was so happy to see us home.

This was just a brief overview of our trip. If you like to see more details and tons of photos, there are posted on my blog. It is a day-by-day account of everything we did. Here is the link to day one:

[http://touristbytransit.com/blog/oz\\_kiwi\\_2019-sydneyarrival/](http://touristbytransit.com/blog/oz_kiwi_2019-sydneyarrival/)

## KAVANAGH FAMILY E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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### MARK'S FACEBOOK PAGE

<http://www.facebook.com/subwaymark>

## MARK'S WIERDNESS

Travel for business was lower this year with just one trip to Japan and one overnight trip to Phoenix. But that doesn't mean work wasn't busy.

He continues to sing with the Trinity Choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He has started the trip planning to the choir trip to Montreal in October of 2021.

He has started writing blog posts for a website that should go live soon. It is a travel website which a friend of his is started and he asked Mark to be a paid contributor. It has been something Mark has wanted to do, but not the bandwidth to do it on his own. He will post on Facebook when the site goes live.

## PET UPDATE

We have welcomed a new critter to our family. His name is Minion, a gray tabby kitten. He was 9-weeks old when we picked him up from the Humane Society. We can see him growing every day. He is such a motorbox!

Dylan has really become a great dog and a smart one. He has a growing vocabulary that includes differentiating his different toys.

Nori has determined that all brothers are crazy, doesn't matter if they are another cat or dog. The kitten has really latched onto Nori, much to Nori's chagrin. But the balance of power is being set. Nori has determined that she is still top cat.



Little Minion

## OTHER TRAVELS

It seems that Mark and Cyn can't keep still. They are always doing something.

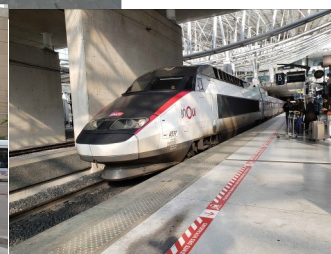
If a trip down-under wasn't big enough, a trip to France was made in October. The first stop was two nights at Paris Disneyland. We stayed at an on-site hotel. Then we were off to Paris. The main purpose was to be a part of the Motor Bus Society convention. There were 30 in the group. The next few nights were spent in Paris, which included a city walking tour, visiting the transit museum, which was a bucket list item for Mark. There was a day trip to Strasbourg via TGV (high-speed train) to ride the trams and buses there. Next, we were off to Lyon via TGV to see the buses, trams and metro there. The convention then ended, but we extended the trip by taking the 2-hour train trip to Geneva. This added Switzerland to our world map. We, along with another couple, enjoyed seeing the city and riding its trams! Then we returned home.

In June, Mark went to New York to visit with his Mom and sister, it was a quick trip, but he did get to spend a half-day in the city and also got to meet up with his aunt and uncle in NJ.

Cyn went to Florida in January to spend some time with her sister in Jacksonville.

Over July 4th, a quick trip to Seattle with Dylan was made to get away from our war-zone of fireworks in our neighborhood.

In 2020, trip plans include a Star Trek Cruise in the Caribbean, A Geocaching road trip in Washington and British Columbia and a trip to Ireland with Mark's Mom and sister.



Top: Mark & Cyn with Maleficent at Paris Disneyland

Middle left: Lyon Tram

Middle Right: TGV at CDG Airport

Bottom left: Strasbourg Tram in Kehl, Germany

Bottom right: Trams in Geneva

## ADULT KIDS HAPPENINGS

No major changes this year for our three kids. Richard and Ellen remain in Independence with Richard working at Western Oregon Univ.

Emily still lives in Milwaukie (Oregon) and works at Kenny & Zuke's Deli in Portland Airport. She continues to participate and perform at Belly Dance workshops and recitals.

Teresa and her household remain in their house in Salem, and she still works at Petco in Keizer. She and Ernie have been taking some nice vacations trips around the region.

## CYN'S UPDATE

Cyn has had a pretty good year, as mentioned, she went to Florida in January. She seems to enjoy the trips Mark plans out! She participates in our neighborhood association. The one item she is looking forward to is getting her other knee replaced. She was hoping to get it done in December, but doctor schedules have pushed out this plan to sometime in March.

## 865 D STREET

This year has been a little quiet on the home renovation front. We did do a refresh on our front porch with painting and adding some trim boards and 2 flag posts.

We still need to replace our front door and our first floor carpeting. Maybe this year. Our backyard fence is also in need of replacing. It never ends.

We have new neighbors across the alley to the east. He likes to put up a lot of Christmas lights, so now Mark has some friendly competition! We believe our light display this year is the best ever!

