



# TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

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**Ed: : Glenys Clift      August Newsletter 2026**

## Management Committee 2025-2026

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| President      | Greg Munck        |
| Vice President | Trevor Henderson  |
| Secretary      | Kathy Duke        |
| Treasurer      | Marie Steger      |
| Committee      | Chris Snook       |
|                | Ken Orange        |
|                | Ann Williams      |
|                | Rosemary Goodsell |
|                | Stephan Nugent    |

## Office Holders

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Grounds Maint.     | Margaret Tucker  |
| Purchasing Officer | Graeme Ryan      |
| Teaching Co-ord    | David Roberts    |
| MP Secretary       | Chris Snook      |
| Tenancy            | Bruce Hinchliffe |
| Librarian          | Gretchen Graf    |
| Recorder           | Ian Jesser       |
| Chief Tournament   |                  |
| Director           | Chris Snook      |
| Welfare Officer    | Kerry Brown      |
| Building Maint.    | Terry Sheedy     |
| Office Manager     | Stephan Nugent   |
| Congress Convenor  | Chris Snook      |
| Housekeeper        | Ann Williams     |
| Membership Sec     | Ngaire Wills     |
| Newsletter Editor  | Glenys Clift     |

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The President is tripping overseas for September and October and so this will be his last newsletter report.

The AGM is on Monday 19 October and at that meeting members will need to elect a President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as Committee members for the 26/27 year. As I have served 3 terms as President, I am ineligible for the

Presidency next year.

So the Club needs a new President for 26/27. As well, our sensational Secretary for last year, Kathy Duke, needs to step aside as she has travel plans for next year – have a great time Kathy. So the Club needs a new Secretary for 26/27. Fortunately, our superb Treasurer, Marie Steger has indicated that she is available to control the purse strings for another year.

So the Club does need people to consider nominating for President and Secretary as well as the Committee positions. Nomination forms will be available soon and I urge you all to consider nominating. If you need any guidance on the roles then please see me, Trevor Henderson Kathy Duke or anyone else on the Committee. Happy bridging. *Greg Munck*

## From your Ed



While a Bridge Club newsletter should primarily be about winners of competitions and future events, it is also a great way to introduce new members to the club – so I hope some of our newer members will consider sending me a little bit about themselves. Because to my mind everyone is interesting. And thank you to those members who have contributed to Book-Lovers & Travellers Tales. If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, my email address is [jgclift@bigpond.com](mailto:jgclift@bigpond.com) . I would love to hear from you. *Glenys*

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 31<sup>st</sup> JULY 2026



### Current Assets as at 31 July 2026

- Heritage Bank General Account: \$4,028.49
- Heritage Bank Online Saver S26 Account (3.2%): \$19,633.19
- Heritage Bank Term Deposit: \$70,000 (maturing 27 October 2026 at 5%)
- ABF Funds Held: \$18,028.40

### Current Liability as at 31 July 2026

- Heritage Bank Visa Credit Card: \$548.32

July table fees totalled **\$9,607**, with **\$200** received from lessons. For the financial year **1 August 2025 – 31 July 2026**, the draft Profit & Loss Statement shows a **net profit of \$10,371** before allowance for depreciation; with table fee income consistent with the previous year.

GST collected for the year was **\$14,642**, with **\$10,021** GST paid on expenses, resulting in **net GST payable of \$4,621**.

Bridge supplies purchased during the year included 864 packs of playing cards and 72,000 bidding slips. Several equipment and facility upgrades were made, including laptops, storage cabinetry, a watercooler, a wall-mounted boiler, and new honour boards.

A full financial report will be presented at the **Annual General Meeting on Monday 19 October at 11 a.m.** Hope to see you there.

*Make your cards count; the next great hand might be yours, Marie*



### WISHING YOU ALL HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUGUST



|                    |  |                  |
|--------------------|--|------------------|
|                    |  | Yvonne Mallory   |
| Deb Archer         |  | Ross McCasker    |
| Gabriela Berger    |  | Chery Offner     |
| Kay Blakeney       |  | Cel Phillips     |
| Sally Callaghan    |  | John Randall     |
| Regan Cass         |  | Pauline Robinson |
| Gail Donovan       |  | Graeme Ryan      |
| Kay Duncan         |  | Wendy Smith      |
| Pat Fenaughty      |  | Trish Thomas     |
| Kaye Fisher        |  | Tony Thorne      |
| Gwendoline Francis |  | Margaret Tucker  |
| Desley Hanrahan    |  | Megan Twine      |
| Trevor Henderson   |  | Barbara Wippell  |
| Michael Kaiser     |  | Rozalyn Wright   |

## TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB AGM 19/10/2026 11am

Our current Committee made up of Greg Munck (Pres), Kathy Duke (Sec), Marie Steger (Treas), Trevor Henderson, Rosemary Goodsell, Stephan Nugent, Ken Orange, Chris Snook and Ann Williams, will be giving their annual reports at the upcoming AGM and ofcourse all positions will be thrown open for the club to elect the 2027 Committee.



**Greg Munck** has been on committee for 10 years, one year looking after Building Maintenance, 6 years as Treasurer and now 3 years as President where he has done an excellent job.

**Trevor Henderson** has been on committee for 9 years. 3 years as President, 2 years as Secretary, 3 years as Vice President and was responsible for the smooth transition when the ABF took over memberships.

**Marie Steger** has been on committee for 4 years, the last 3 taking on the role of Treasurer where she has and is doing an excellent job.

**Ken Orange** has been on committee for 4 years during which time, he has taken on the positions of Purchasing Officer & Assistant Congress Convenor and also been responsible for the distribution of the Club History. If you do not have a copy, please contact Ken – 0412 336 326.

**Chris Snook** joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 1994, he has served on 18 committees, has been elected as President five times and since 2009 has been the club's Masterpoint Secretary. While Chris is also a QBA accredited National Director serving on the QBA tournament committee and in charge of the QBA Director Accreditation, he is also the club's Chief Tournament Director & Congress Director.

**Kathy Duke** joined the TBC in 2023 as a qualified director, and for the last 12 months has been Secretary of the TBC

**Stephan Nugent, Rosemary Goodsell, Ann Williams** are all fairly new members and have been a welcome addition to the Committee. Ann took on the position of Housekeeping Manager helped by Rosemary. Stephan has taken over the positions of Office Manager & Badge Ordering.

The following page gives a breakdown of all the people who are current members and have taken on roles over the years to help the club function. Unfortunately, it does not take into account all the members who support our major events by donating food, giving up their time to run the kitchen and also those members at club sessions who help with the cleanup, handing out and collecting boards etc. Thank you.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CURRENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED ON COMMITTEE, SUB-COMMITTEES AND/OR TAKEN A ROLE AS AN OFFICE HOLDER**

|                        |                   |                  |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| JEFF AITCHISON         | DENISE HARTWIG    | KEN ORANGE       |
| MICHELE ALROE          | TREVOR HENDERSON  | SANDY PARKER     |
| PAUL BARRETT           | WILL HIGGINS      | TONY PATTISON    |
| CARMEL BARRETT         | BRUCE HINCHLIFFE  | JULIE PIGDON     |
| ANNEKE BIERENBROODSPOT | FLEUR HOPKINS     | TIM PORTER       |
| SUSANNE BRAZIER        | AINO JAATINEN     | DAVE ROBERTS     |
| KERRY BROWN            | IAN JESSER        | RITAMAY ROBERTS  |
| PETER BRYCE            | EILEEN JOSEY      | JOHN RYAN        |
| DALE BURY              | MAURICE JOSEY     | GRAEME RYAN      |
| JOHN CHURCHETT         | MICHAEL KAISER    | TERRY SHEEDY     |
| GLENYS CLIFT           | JAN LINDAU        | MELANIE SIMMONS  |
| JOHN CLIFT             | DAVID LYNCH       | CHRIS SNOOK      |
| OLIVER DASHWOOD        | BEV McCASKER      | PAM STEELE       |
| BARBARA DAVIES         | PAM MACKINTOSH    | MARIE STEGER     |
| KATHY DUKE             | PAUL MATTHEWS     | ELIZABETH THORNE |
| TRUDY DUNNE            | ADRIAN MAYERS     | TONY THORNE      |
| KAY DUNCAN             | LESLEY MEYER      | MARGARET TUCKER  |
| HENRY EASTMENT         | ANDREW MOLLISON   | LYN VARY         |
| GWEN FRANCIS           | ADRIENNE MONTAGUE | FLOYD WILSON     |
| SUSIE FRASER           | GREG MUNCK        | ANN WILLIAMS     |
| ROSEMARY GOODSSELL     | MAREE NEALE       | NGAIRE WILLS     |
| GRETCHEN GRAF          | KIM NICOLL        | ROZ WRIGHT       |
| DESLEY HANRAHAN        | STEPHAN NUGENT    | JILL YOUNG       |

**Source: A History of Toowoomba Bridge Club; Bridge Diaries 2023-2026**

Thank you for the time and energy you have all given to the running of the club, because without a committee, and without volunteers the club ceases to exist. While many of the above-mentioned members have taken on multiple roles over the years there is one member who deserves special mention.

**Henry Eastment** has been involved with the Toowoomba Bridge Club management since 1970 – and in effect is the longest serving member of our club. He has served on 28 Committees and has been President twice.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT



I was away for part of this last month, trying to find some sunshine on a cruise to New Caledonia and Vanuatu. That endeavour was only partly successful, but I did have a very enjoyable and much-needed break!

Things at the Bridge Club have been going particularly well, especially with our Beginner Courses and new membership.

From our last two rounds of Thursday night Beginner Lessons, 14 students have joined the club, which is a wonderful result. Only one person has decided to delay her Bridge journey because of work commitments, and I very much hope we will see her back with us in the new year.

Our most recent Thursday night group has now completed their Beginner Course and moved on to the Help with Play series. In addition, Dave Roberts is currently leading four new students through the Beginner Lessons, so it is wonderful to see our teaching program continuing to attract new players.

The Thursday night Help with Play sessions are not just for those who have recently completed a course — they are open to all beginners. Players work through a selection of prepared hands, with experienced players providing guidance, answering questions and helping with both bidding and card play. It is a great opportunity to gain confidence, practise what you have learned and prepare for playing duplicate Bridge at any of our regular club sessions. We would love to see more of our newer players taking advantage of these sessions and continuing their Bridge journey with us.

With our President heading off on holidays of his own shortly, I will be taking on some of the ongoing responsibilities, with much-appreciated assistance from our Vice President, Trevor Henderson. Two of our priorities before the AGM will be finalising the overdue updates to the club by-laws and progressing the honorarium proposals.

We will also continue working with Toowoomba Regional Council and Parks and Recreation regarding the trees in the car park and the branches that require removal. There is plenty happening at the club during September, so I encourage everyone to check the club diary, find an event or session that appeals to you, and come along for a game.

Best in Bridge *Kathy*

## WELFARE REPORT



With the number of members in our Club and the demographic of the group, there is always something happening to someone! I endeavour to contact all who are having a difficult time in one way or another, but if I am not told, then I miss the opportunity of letting them know we care.

A Get-Well card was sent to Fran Leeson who had a nasty fall and spent time in the Oakey Hospital. Rhondda Dean who has some health issues was sent a Sending Caring Thoughts card. We wish these two ladies a quick return to good health.

Condolence cards went to Laurie-Marie McRoberts on the death of her mother. Peter Taylor's sister passed away in a Melbourne and most recently, Judy Glasby lost her husband Trevor. Judy and Trevor were members of our Club for a number of years. We hope that fond memories will help sustain these members in their sad loss. On occasions, I follow up with a text message or phone call to check on how everyone is faring.

I hope everyone stays warm and avoids all ailments so they can continue to enjoy the fellowship of this great Club." Cheers, *Kerry Brown*

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### TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB INC

## Presidents Cup

Greg Munck

### *Red Masterpoint Event*



**Director:** Chris Snook [chris@snook.id.au](mailto:chris@snook.id.au) Tel: 0413 136 435

**Date:** Monday Afternoons 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September

**Play Starts:** 1:00pm – please be seated by 12:45.

- **Entry Fee:** \$6 normal table fees per player per session. Table fees will be collected during the session via MyABF Credits – just like a regular club session.
- Walk-in pairs will be allowed to play in individual sessions.
- Score well in both sessions to be eligible for the title and for outright masterpoint awards.
- Red masterpoints at B4c level.
- **This title is only open to financial members of the Toowoomba Bridge Club**, but all are welcome to play for masterpoints.
- Toowoomba Bridge Club regulations apply.
- Green and Blue systems. No Brown Stickers treatments.
- Each player must have an approved current ABF system card.
- The field will be divided into two grades, playing in separate competitions (Open and Novice).

## Toowoomba Bridge Club Pairs Championship



**1<sup>ST</sup> Bill Redhead & Rod Brilliant**

## Darling Downs Zone Gnot Area Final



**1<sup>ST</sup> Greg Munck, David Roberts, Ngaire Wills, Laurie Price**

## Masterpoint Secretary's Report

- Masterpoints are up to date to the end of July 2026.
- For July, I processed 45 sections from 33 sessions yielding
  - 129.20 green masterpoints (regular club sessions),
  - 126.62 red masterpoints (Club Pairs Championship) and
  - 0.0 gold masterpoints.
  - There were a further 30 tables in 4 sessions on Monday Mornings for the Improvers classes that do not earn masterpoints at this stage but will do so if the sessions continue in September.

We have earned 1305.27 green points Oct-Jul with a red masterpoint session entitlement of 26.54 sessions for 2027 so far (compared to 1216.74 green and 25.18 entitlement at the same time last year). If this trend continues, we are likely to get back to 30 red masterpoint sessions in 2027.

### Club Member Rank Promotions for July are:

| Name              | New Rank     | Total  | 2026  |
|-------------------|--------------|--------|-------|
| Henderson, Trevor | Silver Life  | 500.66 | 31.01 |
| Steger, Marie     | State        | 94.95  | 20.17 |
| Corthorne, Trevor | State        | 82.46  | 9.11  |
| Rudorfer, Eric    | Regional     | 51.43  | 9.93  |
| Egan, Patricia    | Bronze Local | 25.36  | 3.13  |
| McNally, Sandy    | Local        | 15.96  | 3.32  |
| Munck, Paula      | Club         | 5.16   | 5.16  |
| Hayes, Thea       | Club         | 5.00   | 1.36  |

Cheers Chris

### “Have a Go” Individual event

Played on Saturday Afternoon 1<sup>st</sup> August.

This had very small numbers (5 tables), but all who played indicated that they enjoyed playing with different people and appreciated the comments from the more experienced players. Big thanks to Anne Kirkpatrick, Hema De Zoysa and Glenys Clift for bringing their experience and enthusiasm. Whist not formally a competition, Anne Kirkpatrick was a popular “win” on the day.



## BOOK-LOVER'S CORNER



**The Remarkable Mrs Reibey** by **Grantlee Kieza** I have read Mary Reibey's story too. I am in a Book Club at Sea Change and our book from earlier in the year was Mary's story. I had never heard of her and was amazed how her life in Australia was really just so interesting. Basically, to come from being a convict to being such a powerful woman in early Australian history. I wonder if she hadn't been transported for stealing a horse would her life have been so successful? I like reading true stories of successful people such as Mary.

At present I am reading Sam Neill's life story and finding it very easy to read and loving reading about the ways his interests took him to Australia and beyond. *Sue McIntyre*



**“The Nightingale** by **Kristin Hannah** is a wonderful book set in France during World War II, following the lives of two sisters who experience the war in very different ways.

It shows the courage, sacrifice and determination of ordinary people trying to survive during such a terrible time. It's one of those books that stays with you long after you've finished it.

One part of the story that really affected me was the section about the Jewish families and children being taken to the Winter Velodrome (Vel' d'Hiv) before being deported. Knowing that these events were based on real history made it even more heartbreaking to read.

*Cecily McLeod*



**Stasiland: Stories from behind the Berlin Wall** (2003) **Anna Funda** This non-fiction book explores life in the Democratic Republic of Germany

from from(GDR) 1948 to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 as told as a result of interviews and research of various individuals, both ordinary citizens and former Stasi officials.

There are personal stories about attempted escapes, imprisonment and unexplained deaths, coercion and deprivation under the Stasi regime. It reveals the mistrust and betrayal of East Germans (there was approximately 1 informer for every 50 people) and how they had to reconcile this with living in a “free world” after the collapse of the regime. *Jeanette*

*Dalton*



**“In The Wet”** by **Nevil Shute 1953** Wow, this one was a surprise! Stashed away in a storage box for the last four years this “gem” of a novel, along with others from my Father in Law's library packed up from their grazing property west of Charleville. I had previously heard of **Nevil Shute**, known as the author of **“A Town Like Alice”** & **“On the Beach”**. A quick scan of the first few paragraphs of Chapter 1 was enough for me to put it aside to read.

The opening chapters told of a bush chaplain, living in the Gulf Country of North Queensland. During a big wet, and imminent flooding, he found himself with a bush nursing sister, comforting a dying drunken and delirious stockman on a remote cattle property. Then switches to the formation of the Queens Flight crewed by Australian RAAF, and Canadian Air Force personnel. bringing the Queen to Australia in 1984 and brings both stories together at the end. Remember, this was written in 1953. *Greg Jacobsen*

## **Winners are Grinners**

The “Monthly Winners” are recognised as the “individual” winner of **eclectic** multi-session events. These events combine of all the green masterpoint sessions in a month that have not already counted toward a competition.

If there are three available sessions then your best two scores are counted (shows as 2/3), if there are four available sessions then your best three scores are counted (3/4) and if there are five available sessions then your best four scores might be counted (4/5). If there are two available sessions, then they are treated as an eclectic event (best 2/2).

If there are five days in the month, then we usually combine two of these (see the bridge diary) as a “**Two-Weekly**” and additional masterpoints are awarded to the top half of those whose partnerships played both days. The remaining three days are scored as an eclectic with (2/3).

### **July Monthly Winners**

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday PM Open          | Barbara Rydon & Geoff Rydon    |
| Monday PM Novice        | Alan Trueman                   |
| Tuesday Night           | Dave Roberts & Ngaire Wills    |
| Wednesday AM Restricted | Eric Rudorfer & Stephan Nugent |
| Wednesday PM Open       | Will Higgins & Adrian Mayers   |
| Wednesday PM Novice     | Marie Steger & Gretchen Graf   |
| Thursday Night          | Lyn Vary & Jill Cory           |
| Friday Morning          | Dennis Lincoln & Pauline Curin |
| Friday PM               | Eileen Josey & Edwina Willis   |

And on the congress scene:

#### **Lockyer Pairs**

B 1<sup>st</sup> Trevor Henderson & Ngaire Wills

#### **Warwick Swiss Pairs**

1<sup>st</sup> Kathy Duke & Laurie-Marie McRoberts

B 1<sup>st</sup> Mavis Simpson & *Noela Collins*

C 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Hunt & Terry Sheedy

Well done everyone.

Cheers

*Chris*

## TOOWOOMBA SUCCESS AT WARWICK SWISS PAIRS

The Warwick Bridge Club Swiss Pairs Congress, held on Sunday 9 August, attracted a turnout of 16 tables at the club's new congress venue, the Warwick High School Performing Arts Centre.

Despite some unexpected roadworks outside — completely beyond the club's control — the new venue proved to be an excellent setting for a great day of bridge. Toowoomba was very well represented, with many of our players making the trip and achieving some fabulous results.



1<sup>st</sup> Laurie-Marie McRoberts & Kathy Duke with Warwick President Sandra Head



1<sup>st</sup> C Grade: Mark Hunt & Terry Sheedy with Warwick President Sandra Head

A huge congratulations to Laurie-Marie McRoberts and Kathy Duke, who were ranked 15th and finished 1st Overall, and to Terry Sheedy and Mark Hunt, who took 1st place in C Grade. A wonderful result for our Toowoomba players! Thank you to Convener Tony Hinde, Warwick Bridge Club President Sandra Head, and Chris Snook, who directed the event, for a very enjoyable and successful congress.

Congratulations to all who played and supported our neighbouring Warwick club.

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

### Welcome to our New Members



Please welcome the following graduates from the first session of 2026 lessons who have joined our club: A'dele Armagnacq, Fran Gregory, Sabine Kehoe, Maryanne Long, Wendy Prouten, and Annie Roker. Please also welcome back former member Ingrid Rencken, and welcome to Nikki Riszko and Andrew Struik who have been on an extended stay in Toowoomba. We wish all the above members a long and enjoyable time at our club, and lots of good bridge!

Ann Hawker has resigned from our club and moved to Brisbane. Ann has had a long association with our club, having joined in March 2010. Ann was one of the inspiring group of nonagenarians still playing at our club. (see *Ann's story* in May 2026 newsletter).

We wish Ann all the best as she settles into her new life in Brisbane.

*Ngairé Wills*

Membership Secretary.



### OUR NEW THURSDAY NIGHT MEMBERS



Back row: Mario Schmidt, Dave Roberts, Michael Sawyer  
Middle row: Chris Snook, Fran Gregory, Georgina Luscombe, Wendy Prouton,  
Alan Davis, Sabine Kehoe  
Front row: Humaira Saeed, Annie Roker, A'Dele Armagnacq.



I was born and bred in what was then Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, now known as Harare, Zimbabwe. In 1982, we emigrated as a family to South Africa to take up residence in Cape Town. While living in Cape Town, an opportunity arose for me to apply to come to Australia. It was some two years later when that all important letter of acceptance finally arrived. We arrived in Perth in 1987.

My work with the National Safety Council of Australia took me across the length and breadth of WA and to the offshore oil rig near Karratha. I later transferred to Darwin when my work focused on the Mines and Government offices in the NT. Toowoomba finally beckoned in 2005, as I approached retirement. I am now happily involved as a volunteer with the Riding for the Disabled Association.

My interest in bridge began during my Darwin days, after joining a social group of players. Close friends have recently encouraged me to take up bridge once more.

*Mike Sawyer*



We are originally from South Africa and have been living in Toowoomba for just over 10 years. My wife and I have 2 kids in primary school. I have an Engineering background but work as a qualified bookkeeper on a casual basis.

My other interests include Model Engineering, Renovating Houses, Gardening in particular growing Camelia's, Garlic and Tomatoes, Cooking, Baking and Bread making. I enjoy outdoor activities such as walking,

climbing Tabletop Mountain, Tennis, Badminton, and Bicycling. *Mario Schmidt*



Brisbane has been home until my husband and I relocated to Toowoomba in 2003 for his work. Soon after arriving in Toowoomba, I took the opportunity to study at USQ and gained my Master of Clinical Psychology. Over the following years, I developed by own practice and served the community, taking an interest in working with people with disabilities and providing psychological therapy and diagnosis of autism and ADHD in children and adults.

I retired at the end of 2025 and am now pursuing other interests that have included spending more time with my 6 grandchildren, developing my watercolour skills, golf and bridge. Having never played cards, I have found the challenge of learning the complexities of bridge exciting and simulating. After completing the beginner's course with Kathy Duke in June and July 2026, I hope to develop my skills further as I seek opportunities to build on bidding basics.

*A'Dele Armagnacq*



My name is Sabine Kehoe. I grew up in Germany and came to Australia in 1988, intending to stay for just one year. I loved Australia so much that I kept coming back and eventually decided to call it home. My career began with a three-year photography apprenticeship, then studied and qualified as a physiotherapist, then a commercial pilot, worked in Victoria and outback Australia, and eventually settled in the best place on earth, in Toowoomba. In 1996, I opened my own physiotherapy practice in Margaret St, which I ran for nearly 30 years.

I'm married to my husband, Terry, and together we have a wonderful blended family. I'm stepmum to his three and mum to our daughter. These days all the children have finished university and are busy with their own professional careers. Today I'm a full-time artist. I run the Plein Air Artists Toowoomba & Region group, am organising our inaugural Plein Air Painting Competition in November and will be participating in the Toowoomba Studio Art Trail in September. If you'd like to see my artwork, here's my website/social media: I've always loved games. Growing up in Germany, our family played card and board games almost every day, and I have missed that sense of fun and togetherness since moving to Australia. That's what inspired me to join the bridge club.

I simply love creating and making things with my hands—whether it's painting, pottery, plaiting, woodworking, or even playing cards. I enjoy learning new skills, meeting people, and embracing new challenges, and I'm looking forward to many enjoyable years at the bridge table. *Sabine Kehoe*

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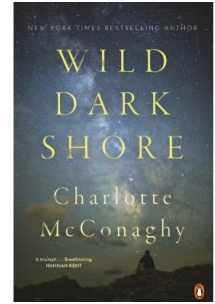
Nikki Riszko and Andrew Struik met many years ago at the bridge table. They had both learned to play at university. After sometimes playing together as partners they eventually got together as life partners as well. They have travelled around Australia and the US in several motor homes.

Their passion for both travel and bridge continues. They live in Canberra, but they have now switched to house-sitting during the long cold Canberra winters, generally in Queensland. They never accept a house-sitting assignment that is too far from a bridge club.

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT



Hello avid Bridge book readers. Your friendly librarian here once again. Nothing much to report this month, so I have a (non-Bridge) book review for you: *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy.



The author is a young Australian who has won numerous awards for her first three novels in the relatively new genre of Cli-Fi, otherwise known as Climate Fiction. I would class this one as a mystery thriller. Her previous two novels were *Migrations*, about the “last” annual migration of Arctic Terns (from North Pole to South Pole) and *Once There Were Wolves*, about the “reintroduction” of wolves to the Scottish Highlands. All three were bestsellers.

It is debatable whether this book is actually literary, but there are wonderful descriptions of the fictional island, Shearwater, based heavily on Macquarie Island, and its inhabitants: fur seals, elephant seals, albatross and every kind of penguin. The family – Dad Dominic, sons Raff and Orly, and daughter Fen are the last remaining inhabitants of the island, the lighthouse keepers, and the custodians of one of the world’s largest seed banks, with millions of species stored there in the naturally sub-zero temperatures. The seas are rising, the isthmus between the two halves of the island has been inundated, so the scientific research station has had to be abandoned.

The action opens with Fen rescuing an unconscious, drowning woman floating on a bed of giant kelp, from the icy waters of the Antarctic Ocean. She has come looking for her husband, one of the last scientists who was meant to have left the island. Where he is, and whether alive or dead is the great mystery.

McConaghy’s books are heavily science and nature based. Her research is impeccable, fascinating, and thoroughly researched. There is plenty of suspense, a bit of romance, a few unexpected deaths, adolescent angst, lies and mayhem. Highly recommended. *Gretchen*

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## UPDATE FROM KATHY DUKE ON BRIDGE CRUISES

I have some exciting news — **I’ll be the Bridge Director and onboard instructor on the Wine & Bridge Cruise to Adelaide in April 2027!**

If you’ve ever thought that playing bridge is enjoyable, but playing bridge while someone else cooks, cleans and sails you from one beautiful destination to another sounds even better, then perhaps 2027 is the year to give a bridge cruise a try.

These cruises are open to all travellers, with a special onboard program for bridge players from across Australia and New Zealand. We’ll be sailing aboard the beautiful *Celebrity Edge*, with a great mix of bridge and holiday time.

The bridge program includes **duplicate sessions, lessons, practical workshops, Green and Red Point events**, and plenty of opportunities to play, learn, meet other bridge players and have some fun. And, importantly, there is still lots of time to enjoy everything the ship has to offer and explore the ports along the way. If you’d simply like some more information — no obligation whatsoever — send me an email at [kathydukeNSW@gmail.com](mailto:kathydukeNSW@gmail.com) and I’ll happily send you the details. *Kathy*

## ANDY HUNG WORKSHOP



Andy Hung's day was entertaining and gave us a sensible basis for deciding between 5 of a minor & 3NT and when to finesse *Tim Porter*

Yes, enjoyed it very much. *Dale Bury*

The 3NT or 5 of a minor was ok, as well as his other session on finessing. *Mark Hunt*

When to finesse and not to... That was the question. And the answer was sooooo complicated – but very good. You should have been there!!

*Gretchen Graf*

Succinct, professional presentation. *Alan Robinson*

Do yourself a favour. Whenever Andy does a workshop, try and attend.

You'll learn to think like an expert. *Debra Coward*

Informative & clearly explained with mention of some more basic bidding and overall, very interesting and stimulating. *Genevieve Reeves*

I always learn a couple of things. I would recommend the workshop to everyone. *Bruce Coward*

Andy is a great presenter – good fun, well organised and very informative. *Pauline Robinson*



## OUR NEWEST GOLD LIFE MEMBER

Congratulations Laurie-Marie McRoberts who has achieved the ranking of Gold Life Master. To achieve Gold Life Master, you need a minimum of 750 masterpoints which includes 450 red/gold points, of which there is a minimum of 75 gold points.

Laurie- Marie originally joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 2005

## Date Claimers

We have a lot of events coming up over the next couple of months. Now is the time to arrange those partnerships and check your diary so all the fun dentist (and other) visits are at different times so you can play 😊.

- **Australia-Wide Open pairs:** Wednesday Afternoon 26<sup>th</sup> August.
- **Tuesday Night Teams competition:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> September for red masterpoints. Please let Denise know if you will be playing. Even number of teams is always more fun and easier to run.
- **President's Cup:** Two Monday Afternoons 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September for red masterpoints, played in two grades Open and Novice.
- **Dalby Pairs and Teams congress:** 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> September. Please support our local neighbour.
- **Toowoomba Kings Birthday weekend congress:**

**Walk-in pairs** on Friday afternoon 2<sup>nd</sup> October

**Matchpoint Pairs** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

**Swiss Teams** Sunday-Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> October

There are plenty of places available for the walk-in pairs. The main pairs and teams events are full, but there is still a bit of swapping and changing, so if you are keen to play let me know and I'll add you to the waiting list.

- **AGM:** 11:00am Monday October 19<sup>th</sup> October
- **AGM Pairs:** 1:00pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October for red masterpoints
- **Melbourne Cup:** Details to follow – but I suspect it will be on a Tuesday in early November.
- **Toowoomba Swiss Teams congress:** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- **Toowoomba Teams of Three:** Saturday Afternoon 14<sup>th</sup> November. This is another event for a combination of our newer and more experienced players.

All these events are listed on our website in the “Calendar” area, are usually listed on the website front page, often have a flyer on display in the clubrooms, and are announced by the Directors (should be at the start of each session). They are also mentioned on the TV announcements when these TV's are switched on. Despite this, word of mouth remains the best way to get people involved, so always make sure you gee-up your friends to play 😊

Thanks *Chris*



After reading “The Nightingale”, by complete coincidence, on our recent visit to Paris, we happened upon Jardin Memorial des Enfants du Vél’ d’Hiv. Visiting the memorial after reading the book made it feel much more real and personal. It was a very moving place to spend some time, and it was a reminder that behind every historical event are real people and real families whose stories deserve to be remembered.”



A place of remembrance, the Vel' d'Hiv' Children's Memorial Garden invites us to pay tribute to the memory of these children, arrested by the Vichy government, complicit with the Nazi occupiers, and murdered in the death camps because they were Jewish. This garden, composed of climbing plants (clematis) and perennials (Carax, iris, pulmonaria), was given to the City of Paris in 2019.

*Cecily McLeod*

### Tour of Tasmania



My husband (Rodney) and I spent a month touring Tasmania in February, a great time of year to go, with the beginning of autumn colours in parts of the state, chance of snow in the highlands, and generally pleasant temperatures in the low 20s wherever we went, with the occasional drizzle.

While we did many of the touristy things such as Port Arthur, Bruny Island, Strahan, Cradle Mt, Launceston, Bay of Fires, Freycinet etc, we also spent time off the beaten track along numerous dirt roads.



It was well worth it to find the wooden boat builders at Geeveston on the road to Southport, The Wall sculpture shed tucked away in the bush at Derwent Bridge, the Tree Sculptures at Ledgerwood (and some more at Campbelltown), the Pub in the Paddock on the way to St Columba Falls, as well as remote beaches, The Edge of the World viewing platform at the mouth of Arthur River on the West Coast and the Nut at Stanley. Check out the various tourist maps and itineraries of various lengths and in different parts of the state put out by the Tasmanian Government Tourist Bureau. They are excellent and full of information.

*Jeanette Dalton*





## Maintenance Happenings June to August

### Shrubbery in the Gutters

I note that the roof and gutter shrubbery has been removed.

### Honour Boards

We now have a much larger Hiley-McCutchen shield. The various pieces of jewellery will be transferred from the old shield to this new one in due course. The Tuesday night competition honour board is currently at Wicks Joinery so that they can match an extension board to the existing one. We should have that very soon. Some day soon, I will remember to bring my battery drill and a screwdriver to the clubhouse in order to adjust the Thursday competition honour board to suit the Tuesday board mounting screws. The Tuesday board will be altered to fit the Thursday board mounting screws. That will allow for the much deeper assembly to not be hidden behind a table.

### Pest Control

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, our pest control people attended to inspect the clubhouse for signs of vermin, and to give the clubhouse its annual dose of vermin inhibitor.

### Fire Extinguishers

The fire extinguishers and fire blanket underwent their 6 monthly inspections on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

### Carpets

The following morning, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July our carpets were thoroughly cleaned.

Many thanks to Ann and Rosemary, and the Friday afternoon players for moving the chairs out of the way, and stacking the side tables for this to happen.

Then again on Monday morning, Ann and Rosemary, and a few early arrivals for Chris's lesson helped to put everything back in place for the day's activities.

### Water Leak

In late June, we received correspondence from Toowoomba Regional Council advising that early in June, from late Monday to Wednesday morning, there had been noted by our smart water meter a continuous flow of 106 litres/hour. To put that into context over that 40 hour or so period, that would have wasted enough water for our gardening crew of Margaret, Melanie and Tony to each give the garden a very thorough soaking. Over the previous six months or so, it had been noted a couple of times that the cistern in the disabled toilet cubicle had failed to reset. The leakage rate of flow was consistent with that fault.

I spoke to the TRC, and while talking to me, they could observe only intermittent flow such as might be expected by the Mah Jong group in attendance.

We now have a brand spanking new cistern.

### Electrical

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August our 6 monthly emergency light test was conducted as required. The lights have a battery backup that is required to maintain the lights on for about 45 minutes. All worked.

At the same time, I conducted the 3 monthly test on the Residual Current Devices. Next time in February, this test is required to be tested by a registered electrician, who has equipment to test how promptly they react.

### Air Con

By the time you read this, the air con system will have received its 3 monthly inspection and filter clean on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August. A couple of filters are starting to sound a bit like a hot water jug heating up, so

hopefully that will be rectified. *Terry*

## PRO-AM



What happens when you mix some of our more experienced players with our newer players, add 11 bridge tables and throw in a little Friday morning fun? A very successful Pro-Am Friday! The Teaching Committee decided to trial something a little different for our Friday morning session, inviting our more experienced players — our “Pros” — to partner with our less experienced players — our “Ams”. There was no pre-arranged pairing and no pressure to play with anyone in particular. We simply invited everyone to come along and see what happened. And what happened was fabulous!

We had a great turnout of 11 tables, with the majority of our less experienced players choosing to partner with one of the Pros. From all accounts, there was plenty of bridge, plenty of conversation, a few helpful tips shared across the table and, most importantly, lots of smiles. The feedback afterwards was overwhelmingly positive. Everyone seemed to enjoy the morning, and most of us learnt something along the way. Of course, that’s one of the wonderful things about bridge — no matter how long you’ve been playing, there is always something more to learn!

Following the success of the trial, the Teaching Committee has recommended that Pro-Am Friday become a monthly event, whenever the calendar allows and it doesn’t clash with other novice events or tournaments. We would particularly love to see more of our newest players come along and give it a try. You don’t need to worry about finding an experienced partner beforehand — just come along, put your name in the mix and join the fun. It’s a relaxed opportunity to play with someone different, pick up a few tips and gain a little more confidence at the bridge table.

Congratulations to the winners:

NS: Oliver Dashwood and his partner Barbara Jo Moxham visiting us from Bribie Island.

EW: Dennis Lincoln and Bruce Coward.

A very big thank you to our regular Friday players for embracing the idea so enthusiastically and helping make sure everyone felt welcome and enjoyed the morning. And a special thank you to Dave Roberts for helping to run the event and contributing to its success. We hope to see even more of you at the next one which will be held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. **Kathy Duke** ♠♥♣♦

## TRAVELLERS TALES

William Higgins: Western Travel Road Trip July 2026  
(*Travelling With Your Wife*)



It was a simple enquiry of “Would you like to go out west, and amongst other things participate in your nephew’s and grand nephew’s birthday celebrations at Longreach at the end of the July school holidays?”

Expecting a simple response, my long-suffering co-driver after a lengthy pause remarked “If the other things mean not driving more than 750 kilometres in a day, sleeping only in hotels/motels/cabins, not driving for long periods on unsealed roads, going no further west than Longreach, then count me in”.

So, first night in a very comfortable motel at Tambo (743 km from Toowoomba), whilst at the Carrangarra Hotel an entertaining chook race doubling as a fundraiser for the RFDS drew a big crowd.

Next day lunch was had in the rain at the Barcaldine Showgrounds. Some would think this a bonus; others might mutter that the walk to the public amenities with no umbrella might have been avoidable if the car had been parked in a different location.

The Longreach birthday celebrations that night held in a recently refurbished hotel wine bar were much enjoyed by all, so much so that some were reluctant to leave, pointing out there was still food to eat and drinks to be drunk.

Next morning, a brisk early walk in the Iningai Nature Reserve just south of town on the Stonehenge Road, followed by a morning coffee at a well patronised local café proved just the tonic to start the new day, which was mainly occupied at the once-a-year Ilfracombe Horse Races. There was a large cash prize for the best dressed mature couple, but the suggestion that entering this was an opportunity to cover some of the cost of our trip was silently rebuffed.

Saying goodbye to relatives and Longreach the following morning, we headed slightly west (this being just acceptable) before turning north staying on the sealed road. An hour later we were at Muttaborra. The historic Cassimatis Store and Cottage, the unguided walking tour of the old Hospital done up in its 1960’s best, the stop at the “Centre of Queensland Monument” were terrific preludes before the stop at the Muttaborra Aurus Langdoni\* Information Centre. Although only a small town, it made a big impression on us.

Leaving Muttaborra in the early afternoon, the next part of the journey took us through Aramac, Barcaldine, then eastward ending up in Alpha. Being a little hungry and in need of an opportunity to discuss our memorable day, we headed off to the sole hotel in the main street. Now you may have heard of the pub with no beer, at Alpha it was a case of the pub not being open at all and furthermore to the chagrin of the locals we spoke to there was no commercial place providing meals in Alpha on a Sunday night. The co-driver was asked what day it was, and rather coarsely advised it was still Sunday and that it had been so for all of the day. Suddenly I remembered that an emergency meal had been packed for the trip. How tasty is a bowl of vanilla creamed rice topped with some canned apricots, when one is hungry.

In the morning the Alpha bakery was keenly sought out for food and hot drink, before the uneventful travelling through Emerald, Springsure, Rolleston, Moura, and Biloela before overnighting in a very well-appointed motel in Monto which was well provisioned with quality food and drink.

Now Toowoomba was only five hours away, but it took all day to get home with stops along the way at Mundubbera, Gayndah and Tansey.

On reaching Toowoomba I thought I heard “that’s the last time I go west” from the co-driver seat. So, looks like the next road trip is one of north, east, or south.



Monument at the geographic centre of Queensland



This is a raptor (whistling kite) spotted on the Iningai Nature Reserve



Black Stump at Blackall

\* *Muttaburra Aurus langdoni* means "**Langdon's lizard from Muttaburra.**" The generic name combines **Muttaburra** (the regional Queensland town near where it was found) with the Greek word **saurus** (lizard), while the specific name **langdoni** honours **Doug Langdon**, the local grazier who discovered the first fossil.



## Australia-Wide Open Pairs

**Date:** Wednesday Afternoon  
**26th August**

The Australia-Wide Open Pairs has a rich history that goes back more than 40 years, bringing together thousands of players from all around the country.

Each player will receive a souvenir booklet on the day, describing our recommendations for how the bidding and play should have gone. After the results are in, there will also be a second personalised booklet available on our web page, looking at every board to see how your bidding and play compares against our recommended results.

### More prizes than ever

Also included in the \$5 entry fee, every participant will receive a range of exclusive discounts at our book store. In addition there are over \$4,000 worth of CD & magazine prizes for the top 25 pairs (both Open and Restricted).

There will also be book prizes awarded to pairs for specific achievements during the event (for example, bidding and making a tricky game). The conditions for these spot prizes will be announced in the souvenir booklet.

Pairs scoring 54% (scored across the field) will receive **Red Masterpoints**.

### Australia's largest event

The event is matchpointed across a field of approximately 3,400 players. This means that when you look at your results on our web page, you will see your score on each board compared with over 800 tables from around Australia. If you get a top board against that many pairs, you'll really deserve it (and you'll probably find yourself with a book prize).

# We Did It, In Aberdeen !!



The Bridge Club Aberdeen

McQueen Teams  
Wednesday 10 May 22  
Dundee, Dundee Bridge Club

Ranking

| Players                                        |                                                                                                              | Total | Match Points | Score |       | Points Against Team No. |   |    |    |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------------------------|---|----|----|
| For (Opponent Score Card, which name and seat) |                                                                                                              | %     | Club         | Small | Grand | 1                       | 2 | 3  | 4  |
| 1                                              | Steve & Sarah Frost<br>James Ross & Murray Stewart<br>Euan Gordon & Ruth Gordon<br>and Murray & Ruth Stewart | 50    | 20           |       | 1     | 10                      | — | 20 | 10 |
| 2                                              | Cecile Laine & Linda Johnson<br>Fiona Rogers & John Clark<br>Mary Stewart & Neil Laine                       | 40    | 10           | 1     |       | —                       | 3 | 20 | 10 |
| 3                                              | James Donald & Alan Stewart                                                                                  | 10    |              | 1     |       | 5                       | 5 | —  | 10 |
| 4                                              |                                                                                                              | 10    |              | 1     |       | 5                       | 5 | 5  | —  |



**FRASER'S**

