



# TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba Ph : (07) 46 384808 Email : secretary@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au



Ed : Glenys Clift May/June Newsletter 2026

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 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



We are about halfway through the bridge year with a couple of popular events coming up in June – Winter Woolly Pairs on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June and the Under 500 and Novice Teams Congress on 7 June. While Congress Under 500 entries are filling up there are still quite a few vacancies in the Novice section – so please consider getting a team

together all you Novice players. An update on the Management Committee where we have had two retirements/resignations recently – Helen Holmes and Suzanne Brazier. A big thanks to both for their input this year and in Suzanne's case over the last few years. The Committee will continue to function as normal over the next five months before the AGM with our nine remaining members as this is still well above the minimum number of six. If you would like to assist the Club and become a member of the Management Committee at the next AGM then please feel free to chat to me or any member of the Committee before the AGM in October. Happy Bridging *President Greg*

## BOOK LOVERS CORNER.

Our club has quite a large number of members who are either members of book clubs or simply love reading and have always done so. So, to accommodate this love of books and reading, the newsletter is starting a new column - check out page 14.

For this to continue, I will need our members participation in providing me with the details of a book they would like to recommend, either one they have read recently or a favourite from the past. My email address is [igclift@bigpond.com](mailto:igclift@bigpond.com) Thanks *Ed Glenys Clift*

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDED  
MARCH 2026**



Cash Flow for the month of March resulted in an increase of \$3,767.

**Current Assets Held:-**

- Heritage Bank General Account - **\$2,876.12**
- Heritage Bank Online Saver S26 Account 2.95% - **\$28,226.92**
- Heritage Bank Term Deposit – **\$70,000** due 27APR26 @ 3.850% To be renewed for 6 months @ 5%
- MyABF - **\$9,933**

Table fees collected in March totaled \$7,509, and income from lessons was \$445. We are in the process of updating all computers. On 18 March, \$1,299 was spent to purchase a second HP OmniBook 5 laptop. The Management Committee has also approved the replacement of the wall-mounted hot water urn in the Eastern Room. Levies of \$6,809.60 for QBA and \$6,809.60 for ABF, covering 256 home members, were paid in April.

In May, I'll be swapping bridge cards for a wine glass as I head off to enjoy the culture, cuisine, and countryside of France, followed by some time on the Danube River. Treasurer duties will be in Trevor's capable hands during my absence.

*Bonne chance, Marie*

**WISHING YOU ALL HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
FOR MAY**



Maureen	Abraham	Pauline	Lutton
Elizabeth	Anderson	David	Lynch
Judy	Barkla	Paul	Matthews
Suzanne	Brazier	Peter	Morton
Kathleen	Carey	John	Nitschke
Debra	Coward	Thomas	O'Connor
Sue	Crooke	Lucy	Parker
Alan	Davis	Sandra	Parker
Hema	De Zoysa	Mark	Phythian
Michael	Doherty	Lawrence	Price
Diana	Drummond	Brenda	Quick
John	Erlandson	Robert	Ramsay
Lance	Govan	Melanie	Simmons
Susan	Hamilton	Mavis	Simpson
Teena	Haslam	Jenny	Speziali
Helen	Holmes	Sue	Wells
Ian	Jesser	Ann	Williams
Jan	Lindau	Ngairé	Wills
		Carol	Wilson

## WELFARE REPORT



Compared to the last two months, things have been relatively quiet on the welfare front. Fortunately, our members are generally experiencing good health.

A “Get Well Card” was sent to Barbara Davies who, after a very long wait and much suffering, had a knee replacement. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her back at the club very soon. A “Get Well Card” was also sent to Ian Costin who has not been well. We hope he is feeling better now. Sue Hamilton has had some health issues, but she is back playing golf. Well done Sue!

Please If you know of anyone who is experiencing difficult times, let me know so I can show them that we care. I have had many positive feedbacks from members who have been recipients of our messages. One person in particular, said she was so touched by the card and couldn't thank the club enough.

Let's hope we all stay well and avoid the flu season's problems. *Kerry Brown*

## Maintenance Happenings – April 2026



### Electrical

The electrical work in the dealing room has been completed. In the process, it transpired that one extra power outlet would have been nice.

I have been tidying up my shed a bit here and there lately, and in the process discovered that I had a dual outlet flat pack double adaptor. As I had long forgotten I had such a thing, and have no idea how I came across it, I deemed it suitable for the additional power point in the dealing room.

### Wall Urn

Last week, following up on the urn replacement, we can no longer obtain an urn of the same size as the leaking one in the eastern room. We are faced with having a smaller unit or a larger unit. Yesterday, we placed an order for the larger unit, and it will be available later this week.

Hopefully, we can arrange for the installation to replace the old one next week.

### Air Con

Sometime about mid-May, the air con units will be serviced as per our 3-month schedule.

*Terry Sheedy*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please welcome the following members who have joined our club after completing the first round of lessons for 2026: Maureen Abraham, Louise Bassingthwaighte, Judy Burke, Greg Jacobsen, Andrea Leverington, Lindy Malony, Phoenix Mahony, Carmel O'Leary, David Olischlager, Helena Stark, Susan Whalan and Vicki Whan.

We would also like to include Ian Huxley, Paula Munck, Pauline and Alan Robinson, and Barbara and Geoff Rydon, all who have moved to this area during the past few months. And last but certainly not least are former members Steven Foley and Lucy Parker who have rejoined our club recently. Great to have you back again.

We wish all the above members a long and enjoyable time at our club, and lots of good bridge!

### Three Generations



Vicki Hyland with her granddaughter, Phoenix Mahony and daughter, Lindy Mahony who both attended the latest round of lessons



### Welcoming New Players to the Bridge Club

Following the completion of the Beginner lessons, the committee trialled a new member induction session to help welcome and support players who have joined the club following these lessons, and from earlier this year.

All new members were invited to attend and received a welcome pack containing the club diary, latest newsletter and information booklet. Trevor Henderson demonstrated how to use MyABF and Pianola, while Dave Roberts assisted by ensuring members could successfully access their new logins.

The sessions were held on Wednesday morning and Thursday evening, with light refreshments served at both. The induction provided a friendly and informative introduction to the club and helped new members feel more confident about participating in club activities. We intend to run these sessions following the completion of Beginner lessons going forwards.

Thanks *Kathy*

## Bridge Buddy Thursdays

Thursday night's duplicate got an extra burst of energy this week as we welcomed five brave new members, fresh from Beginner lessons to the tables. Congratulations to Susan, Vicki, Lindy, Phoenix and Greg for taking that first big step into duplicate play. Each beginner was paired with a more experienced player to help them find their way around the room, and all pairs successfully played 21 boards with plenty of smiles, good spirit and no major incidents — always a win!

A warm thank you to Chris Snook, Bev and Ross McCasker and Dave Edwards for mentoring their partners, and to Lawrie Price for being on hand as non-playing Director. Our Thursday night players continue to be wonderfully welcoming and supportive of newcomers, which makes a huge difference to the success and spirit of our club. Bridge Buddy sessions will run every Thursday night throughout May and can be arranged for any beginner keen to give duplicate a try. Please email me for more information. ([secretary@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au)) *Kathy*



Greg Jacobsen, Vicki Whan. Phoenix Mahony. Lindy Mahony. Susan Whalan



Chris Snook, Dave Edwards, Ross McCasker, Beverley McCasker and Kathy Duke who buddied up Vicki, Greg, Phoenix. Lindy and Susan



(from L to R) John Nitschke, Maureen Abraham, Andrea Leverington, Judy Burke, Judy Clancy, Louisa Bassingthwaighte, Carmel O'Leary, John Handley



I grew up in Brisbane and moved to Toowoomba 33 years ago. My 3 children were all educated here in Toowoomba and two of them have now moved back to Brisbane. As a small child I always enjoyed playing cards and games, that has never changed and learning bridge was always something I wanted to do. After recently retiring I have finally had the chance and I'm loving it. Hopefully I can improve quite a lot and continue to learn some of the many ins and outs of the game. Looking forward to a long association with the club. Cheers  
*Carmel O'Leary*



Born in Brisbane, I have lived in many Qld towns including Rockhampton, Townsville, Karumba and Emerald in Central Qld where my father mined for sapphires. After school, I completed an Accounting Degree at Central Qld Uni in Rockhampton and worked for the automotive industry then the export prawn industry in Karumba. With my husband Aidan. we moved to Toowoomba from Rockhampton with our 3 children 37 years ago (only to find myself with No 4 on the way). I retired 3 years ago and came to bridge lessons hoping to benefit from the mental stimulation and to meet new people. I am really enjoying the lessons – thank you. (pictured with her granddaughter Sophie aged 4).  
*Judy Burke*

## LESSONS – (Monday Mornings)

# Improver Play – Building on the Basics

On **Monday Mornings from 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**, “**Improver lessons**” will be held to cater for players who have recently finished the basic beginner lessons and want to advance their knowledge; and for regular Wednesday morning and Thursday evening players looking to improve their game. Members who would like a refresher on any of these topics are also welcome to attend all or just a few lessons.

Lessons (shown in **bold**) include the lesson content, notes, “cheat sheets” and playing 8 boards on the lesson content. Each lesson is then followed by a Supervised Play session the next week with more boards based on the previous week’s lessons. The rest of the hands in the Supervised Play session are based on revision of earlier content and a few other interesting practice hands. During the Supervised Play sessions, players may consult their notes or ask for help. Ideally come with a partner but individuals will also be accommodated.

**WHEN: Arrive 8.45am for a 9:00am start to approximately 11.30am.**

Week 1 : 13 April	<b>Card Play Techniques</b> (card play – no bidding)
Week 2 : 20 April	<b>Constructive Overcalls</b> – both sides in the bidding
Week 3 : 27 April	Supervised Play - overcalls
Week 4 : 4 May	<b>Takeout Doubles</b> – more on entering the auction
Week 5 : 11 May	Supervised Play – overcalls and takeout doubles
Week 6 : 18 May	<b>Pre-emptive Bids</b> – weak 3 & 4 level opening bids
Week 7 : 25 May	Supervised Play – pre-empts
Week 8 : 1 June	<b>Pre-emptive Bids</b> – weak 2 level opening bids
Week 9 : 8 June	Supervised Play – weak two’s
Week 10 : 15 June	<b>Simple Transfers after 1NT opening:</b> 2D → 2H, 2H → 2S
Week 11 : 22 June	Supervised Play - transfers
Week 12 : 29 June	<b>2C Stayman</b> – looking for a major fit after partner opens 1NT
Week 13 : 6 July	Supervised Play - Stayman
Week 14 : 13 July	<b>Slam Bidding Suit Contracts - Blackwood 4NT</b>
Week 15 : 20 July	Supervised Play – ace asking for suit contracts
Week 16 : 27 July	<b>Slam Bidding Notrump Contracts – 4C Gerber</b>
Week 17 : 3 Aug	Supervised Play – ace asking for NT hands
Week 18 : 10 Aug	<b>Opening Strong Balanced Hands</b>
Week 19 : 17 Aug	Supervised Play – strong balanced hands
Week 20 : 24 Aug	<b>Opening Strong Unbalanced Hands</b>
Week 21 : 31 Aug	Supervised Play – strong unbalanced hands

Any player wishing to brush up on their bidding skills or play a more modern game is welcome to attend.

Contact Chris Snook 0413 136 435 for further details. Ideally email me ([chris@snook.id.au](mailto:chris@snook.id.au)) to say that you are coming so I can print sufficient notes and prepare boards, but ad hoc attendance is also welcome. *Chris*

## *HAIL OUR NONAGENARIANS*

All these members were born between Jan 1933 and Dec 1936 – and grew up during the Great Depression triggered by the 1929 Wall Street crash. With un-employment over 32% (the highest in the world) and 40,000 men on the road looking for work – it was a period of extreme hardship. Things didn't really improve until the mobilization for World War 11 after September 1939.



By the time WW11 finished in 1945 all these members were aged between 9 and 12 and no doubt have a lot of memories of the adjustment that happened as the men returned home (or in some cases didn't). Hopefully what they experienced in their early years with the Great Depression and the war, will never happen again. But....for all our cleverness, we don't seem to learn much from the past.

Matriarch Fay Short



Peter Morton



Thea Hayes



Bruce Hinchliffe



Anneke Bierenbroodspot



Harold Cogan



Zara Clemesha



Ann Hawker

### **A little bit of nostalgia**

With post-war petrol rationing lasting well into the 1950's, irrespective of where you grew up, those born in the 1930's, 40's and the early 50's were still seeing the aftereffects of WW11. Staples like milk, bread, ice and fruit/vegetables were frequently delivered by horse and cart during this period. Everyone had a vegie garden, and kids were sent out to collect the horse manure on the street for the garden. Children had a freedom unheard of today. The following are two stories that are perhaps a little different to those of us who grew up in cities and large regional towns. *Glenys*

## **GROWING UP IN THE 1930'S & 40'S** **ANN'S STORY**

Childhood in the 1930's, which were the recovery years of the world-wide depression, was a little isolated, but a happy life for young children...freedom and wonderful home-grown food, and the warmth of open fires. Living on the property of Weetah, 17 miles from Moree, we grew 19 vegetables and had 7 choices of meat and fruits. The cows were milked, 6 mornings a week, so fresh cream and milk were on the table every breakfast and fresh butter for lunch.

Immediately after entering WW11 in September 1939, we experienced 4 years of drought but no fear for our lives as Europe lived with. There was no school for my brother and me to attend, despite a tiny village on the Gwydir River as petrol was rationed and our allowance was for emergencies. There was no such thing as a school bus. Some neighbours rode horses to school (bikes were too expensive) plus horse and sulky substituted for cars, which most could not afford.

My father was away with the 24<sup>th</sup> light horse for 3 years which like many horse units was converted to a motor regiment. We played in the dirt, climbed trees and built cubby houses. I survived 6 years of Blackfriars Correspondence School taught by my mother who did not enjoy the task. The 1940's we were plagued by moths, rabbits and dust storms. We mustered the rabbits on foot into a netting wing to guide rabbits into a small round high netting yard on a fenceline.... banging and clanging anything noisy made them run into this tiny high yard and smother quite quickly – with only the top layers having to be killed. Ironically, rabbit was regarded as one of the staple meats in butcher shops during the war and well into the fifties.

The dust storms were first sighted on the horizon like a dark brown blanket being pulled over the sky. We had just 10 minutes to gallop home unsaddle and run for the house...pull the washing from the lines and grab every newspaper to be found, roll them flat sheet by sheet and stuff them under every door. grab the pile of dust sheets and throw them over every piece of furniture in the house. And then you would hear it – a loud strong roaring wind from the west carrying thick dark dust so heavy it blocked out the sun completely and removed all birds completely. The wind blew for one day and when everything settled, the hard broom sweeping began. No vacuum cleaners in those days! We tied hankies over our faces, take a deep breath then wait for the dust to settle and repeat this over and over again for 2-3 days.

The moths lived inside our clothes, filled our shoes and smothered inside our drawers – large and dark brown, at sundown they emerged in thousands to crawl up the gauze on each veranda from floor to roof – you could not see between them, once reaching the roof they returned to floor and climbed up again. The solution lay in undoing all the gauze at the top and lie them on the ground outside, wait for them to leave and replace the gauze to keep flies out the next day.

At 7 years old, I enjoyed being a waitress at the Red Cross Tea Room in Moree every Monday. My mother cooked all day on Sunday, enough food to fill the car and by 9AM, we would be in full swing. It was great meeting lots of people and being part of a community supporting the war effort.

*Ann Hawker*

## **GROWING UP IN THE 1930'S & 40'S & COMING TO AUSTRALIA ANNEKE'S STORY**

Born in Holland, I spent the next seven years on a beautiful tea plantation high in the mountains of West Sumatra. This came to a brutal end when the Japanese invaded Indonesia in March 1942, putting us all in concentration camps, certainly not keeping to the Geneva Convention. We were liberated mid-August 1945 by the British. Finally, mid-1946 we got a place on a boat back to Holland, sadly without my brother who was separated from us when he was 10 and my mother who, like many others, had died of malnutrition – beriberi – a few months before liberation.

My father went back to his job in Indonesia in 1948. I stayed behind to attend high school, then teaching college. After two years teaching in Amsterdam, I met my husband, Hans, who was on leave from his job in Indonesia. We would have loved to go back there, but by that time, late 1956, the Dutch were no longer welcome. So, we settled for a job in Nigeria, on a rather isolated oil palm plantation. There I was, at just 22 years of age, expected to manage a household, with the obligatory big boy -Sam – and small boy – Rasaki, crossing the river by canoe fortnightly to go to the market, three hours drive to Ibandan. The boss's wife was prone to pick up us wives to play Mah Jong and serve us enormous glasses of Carlsberg beer. Very daunting. No more beer for me after that.

After two years and a two-month-old daughter, we settled back in Holland. Hans had a good job but really wanted to go back to agriculture. As his degree was in tropical agriculture, geared for work in Indonesia, we thought Queensland fitted the bill and so migrated in the mid-sixties and landed in Wacol migration camp.

Another camp, no buses, no trains, no doctors. But after a few months, Hans landed a job with the DPI as a soil conservationist and farm planner. He loved his job and worked there with great enthusiasm until his retirement. His first place of work was Jandowae, then big farms and great for Hans' work, but with an outdoor loo and a woodburning stove for heating water, I felt I had gone back a century.

Our next placement was Dalby where I got around on my bike, with a little seat on the back for little Michael, very unusual for that time. Our last place of work was Toowoomba, where I finally had to get my driving licence. Then, on retirement, Hans worked as an Agricultural Adviser at an Australian aid program in West Timor. I had a smattering of the language and Hans spoke it fluently. We both loved our time there. We were then able to go travelling to Europe, but Covid and age put a stop to that, so now it's mainly visiting the kids and family in, respectively, Melbourne, Caloundra and Brisbane.

After my husband Hans spent fourteen months in a nursing home – do try to stay away from these soul-destroying places – Hans died half a year ago. He was 97 years old, so no complaints there, but I do miss him. It's hard getting used to having the TV and bed all to myself.

I am glad that I started bridge twenty years ago. Thanks for the company and friendship  
*Anneke Bierenbroodspot*

## Joyce Benson Cup – 3-weekly 20/5/26 -27/5/26 - 3/6/26



Joyce Benson had originally learnt bridge in the 1950's with Dr McCutcheon and in the 1970's was running bridge lessons from her home, which she continued doing for the next 30 years. Prior to the club house in Water Street being built in 1983, as well as being a member of the TBC, Joyce also ran the Downs Bridge Club which was not affiliated with the QBA but run more as a social club.

So, when the Toowoomba Bridge Club moved into their new premises in Water Street, Joyce was given Wednesday to run her session. The Downs Bridge Club ceased to exist and former members now joined and played at the TBC on Wednesday. Although they had to join the TBC, it was almost run as a separate group having its own Xmas Party.

In 1984 Joyce was awarded Life Membership of the Toowoomba Bridge Club for her contribution to bridge and the club with her teaching.



Joyce was given a special farewell at the Toowoomba Bridge Club Water Street premises in 2004 due to her increasing frailty and blindness. The photo includes members who had attended her lessons.

Val McClement, Lise Boyce, Betty Steele and Kim Nicoll who arranged for Joyce to come to the Opening Day of the Stuart Street premises in 2007.

Sadly, by then, Joyce was limited not only with her blindness but had very limited mobility and was dependent on a wheelchair



## TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB INC

# Joyce Benson Cup

## (Red Masterpoints)

**Directors:** Kathy Duke (Novice Section)  
Will Higgins (Open Section)

**Scorer:** Chris Snook

**Dates:** Three session event – Wednesday Afternoon Sessions  
20<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> May & 3<sup>rd</sup> June

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

<b>Two sections</b>	<b>Open</b> and <b>Novice</b> (<100mp) grades played in separate fields.
<b>Entries</b>	There are no prior entries – this is a walk-in event. However when you arrive, you should wait in the foyer, and the Director will assign a seat for you.
<b>Partner Service</b>	There is no partner service for this event. Please use the Pianola Partner Finder or speak to a regular Wednesday Director for assistance.
<b>Format</b>	Each grade will be a three-session matchpoint pairs event. In each grade the first week is a <b>qualifying</b> session and in the second and third week there will be a “ <b>final</b> ” for the top 12 qualifying pairs. The remainder of the field will play in regular sessions in the second and third week (graded if there are sufficient entries).
<b>Substitutes</b>	A substitute may be used for one out of the three sessions with prior approval from the Director.
<b>Masterpoints</b>	Red masterpoints at the appropriate B4c level for each session, outright awards for all finalists, and session awards for walk-in pairs.
<b>Entry Fee</b>	\$6 per player per session (normal table fees). Payment will be collected via MyABF on each day that you play.
<b>Titles</b>	Entry into these events is unrestricted and all participants will be entitled to any masterpoints won. Titles shall be awarded only to players who are financial members of the Toowoomba Bridge Club.
<b>Systems</b>	Green and Blue systems. No Brown Stickers treatments. Each player must have an approved current ABF system card.



**Toowoomba Bridge Club Inc**  
**Novice & Under 500 Teams Congress**  
**Sunday 7 June 2026**



Venue	Toowoomba Bridge Club, 55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba
Time	Registration is 9:00am for a 9:30 start
Director	Chris Snook
Event Details	Two separate sections (Novice and Under 500) playing two sessions each. Format will be Round Robin or Swiss depending on number of entries. Novice and Under 500 players must have fewer than 100 & 500 masterpoints respectively as of 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026. Novice teams may ask to play in the Under 500 event.
How to enter	Entry and payment via <b>MyABF</b> . Navigate to: <a href="https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4230">https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4230</a>
Entries Close	4 pm Thursday 4 June 2025, or earlier if limit of 30 tables is reached.
Entry Fee	\$160 per team (\$40 per player). Pay via MyABF Credits for the team, or individually, when you enter. Entries should be paid in full by the closing time or risk withdrawal from the event. Pay by existing MyABF Credits or add credits when you enter via credit or debit card.
Systems	QBA Regulations apply. <b>Green, Blue and Red systems</b> and <b>Brown Sticker</b> treatments are allowed in the Under 500 section, and <b>Green and Blue systems</b> are allowed in the Novice section. Each pair must have 2 systemically identical ABF system cards at the start of each round.
Prizes	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – \$500 &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$350</b> in each event. <b>Paid by myABF credits.</b>
Catering	BYO Lunch. Refreshments available all day. Drinks & savouries at the end of play.
Contact	Convenor Chris Snook <a href="mailto:chris@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au">chris@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au</a> 04 1313 6435

Contestants entering this event are deemed to have agreed to abide by the Regulations of the QBA and any supplementary regulations made by the Congress organisers and either posted on the QBA website, appearing on the entry form, or by announcement before the start of the event.

If you are having difficulty with registering and using MyABF,  
 contact: Trevor Henderson 0419 878826  
 Chris Snook 0413 136435



# Winter Woolly Pairs

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026

\$10 each

Includes Lunch and Bridge



- Prior entry is required. Please enter your pair via MyABF (accessed via the Events section on our website).
- 9:45am seated for a 10am start.
- Movement depends on number of tables – play against pairs of similar standards to yourselves.
- Session finishes around 2:30pm with a break for lunch around 12pm (noon).
- A selection of soups, rolls and dessert will be provided.

---

## VALE JOAN WENCK

1931-2026



Joan joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 1984 and played with various partners including Joyce Zeizemer and Lise Boyce. Joan was a financial member up until and including 2023. While Joan never served on Committee or was an office bearer, she was one of those people you could always rely on to help when needed – plus she was an absolute delight.

Joan turned 94 in December 2025.

## VALE PAT LARSEN

1946 -2026



Pat joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 2006 and was a member until 2017 when she relocated to Townsville. Pat who had achieved the status of Grand Master, played on a regular basis with Liz Zeller which was a very successful combination. Pat last played at the Townsville Club in April of this year.

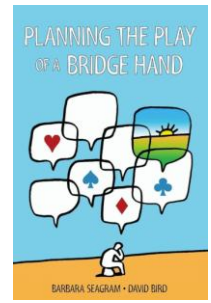
## BOOK LOVERS CORNER

### Chris Snook's Recommendation



Librarian  
Gretchen Graf

*Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand* is a book on contract bridge co-written by the Canadian teacher and author Barbara Seagram and the British author David Bird. It was published by Master Point Press in 2009.



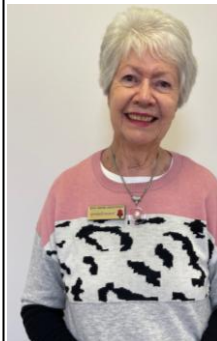
The book teaches novice bridge players some basic techniques of declarer play, including suit establishment, ruffing losers and the finesse. It also explains how to make a plan as declarer, teaching readers how to recognize which technique should apply on a given deal, both in no trump contracts and suit contracts. It also teaches entry management and elementary counting. The book won the ABTA (American Bridge Teachers Association) Book of the Year award for 2010.



*Diary of a Tuscan Bookshop* by Alba Donati. This is one of my favourite books. The author is an award-winning poet. When she came home to Lucignana, a village with a population of less than 200 people, in the Tuscan hills, she opened a bookshop.

She was also caring for her 102-year-old mother in Florence which is 70 kilometres away as well as running after her daughter who was at University. The book has been written as a diary with a strong emphasis on love of books, gardening, family and friendship.

*Jill Cory*



*“My Friends”* by quirky Swedish author Fredrik Backman, is a funny, moving, sometimes sad tale of four chaotic teenagers whose friendship creates a bond so powerful it changes the life of a stranger 25 years later.

One teenager becomes a famous artist & Backman nails what art means to the artist compared to the world of the super-rich, who only see art as an investment. A story of hope, joy and sorrow, I loved Backman's latest novel, published 2025. Thanks

*Yvonne Blakeney*



Having just holidayed on Bruny Island, Tasmania I'm reminded of the book *‘Bruny’* by Heather Rose published in 2019. It was the winner of general fiction book of the year by ABIA awards

I loved this thriller with its twist at the end. Central characters are three siblings: two of them running in the upcoming election on opposite sides of politics and the third home on break from overseas work with UN. Having lived in Tas in 1970s I found these connections quite feasible. It is an entertaining read with a love of Bruny Island at its core. *Margie Maddison*



The two books I have really enjoyed the last month are: **The Watchmakers War** by Danny Ben-Moshe. based on a true story set in Australia post WW11. I then gave it to John and he couldn't put it down either.

The second book was Tony Abbot's **Australia: A History**. Yep. I know, we are all fed up with politicians right now. But in all fairness, he brings the past to life and it is probably the best book on Australian history I have read. *Glenys Clift*



## Banjo Paterson



**Andrew Barton “Banjo” Paterson, CBE** (17 February 1864 – 5 February 1941) was an Australian bush poet, journalist and author. He wrote many ballads and poems about Australian life, focusing particularly on the rural and outback areas, including the district around Binalong, New South Wales, where he spent much of his childhood. Paterson’s more notable poems include “Waltzing Matilda”, “The Man from Snowy River” and “Clancy of the Overflow”.

### The Last Trump

"You led the trump," the old man said  
With fury in his eye,  
"And yet you hope my girl to wed!  
Young man! your hopes of love are fled,  
'Twere better she should die!

"My sweet young daughter sitting there,  
So innocent and plump!  
You don't suppose that she would care  
To wed an outlawed man who'd dare  
To lead the thirteenth trump!

"If you had drawn their leading spade  
It meant a certain win!  
But no! By Pembroke's mighty shade  
The thirteenth trump you went and played  
And let their diamonds in!

"My girl, return at my command  
His presents in a lump!  
Return his ring! For, understand,  
No man is fit to hold your hand  
Who leads a thirteenth trump!

"But hold! Give every man his due  
And every dog his day.  
Speak up and say what made you do  
This dreadful thing — that is, if you  
Have anything to say!"

He spoke. "I meant at first," said he,  
"To give their spades a bump,  
Or lead the hearts; but then you see  
I thought against us there might be,  
Perhaps, a fourteenth trump!"

They buried him at dawn of day  
Beside a ruined stump:  
And there he sleeps the hours away  
And waits for Gabriel to play  
The last — the fourteenth - trump.

## The Case of the Unthrifty Avocado Tree

by Detective Bob Dodman

I think most of the members who visit the Bridge Club would be familiar with the two avocado trees on the eastern side of the central parking space. The tree nearest the clubhouse is a wonderful specimen with rich green healthy leaves and bears lots of fruit (which sometimes mysteriously disappears). The tree furthest from the clubhouse is noticeably in poorer condition with yellowish leaves and some dead or leafless branches. It produces little or not fruit.



August 2024

I knew about problems with avocado trees because of the outstanding work of Dr Ken Pegg, a colleague of mine in the Department of Primary Industries, who I have known since 1971 when I first joined the DPI as a plant pathologist. Ken investigated decline in avocado for many years, finding that poor growth (and even death) was associated with a root disease caused by a fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) that lives in the soil. The fungus attacks and kills feeder roots thus depriving the tree of water and nutrients. Incidentally, this pathogen has a very wide host range attacking hundreds of ornamentals, horticultural and forestry species. It is responsible for dieback in WA forests and many other significant diseases. It has also killed many plants in my garden, including some Azaleas and Rhododendrons.

When looking at the tree in 2024 I strongly suspected that it was affected by *Phytophthora* root rot and so began some treatments developed by Ken during many years of research. This involves the injection of phosphorous acid into the trunk of the tree. This treatment is quite remarkable in plant disease control as it involves a type of biological control that is very rare in plant pathology. Phosphorous acid (PA also sometimes called phosphonic acid, with the formula  $H_3PO_4$ ) does not restrict the growth of the fungus on artificial media so will not prevent disease development if applied to the soil.



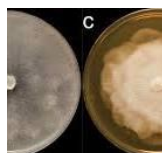
In a unique treatment developed by Ken a small hole of about 2 to 3 cm is drilled into the trunk of the tree and then a syringe filled with a solution of phosphorous acid is inserted into the hole. Because of a strong spring mechanism in the syringe the PA is injected into the hole and enters the xylem (water conducting tissue) where it is transported up to the leaves. The PA is then translocated back down to the roots via the phloem vessels, whose function is to move nutrients produced in the leaves to the roots, thereby enabling them to take up water and minerals from the soil and thus “feed” the tree.

The suppression of the pathogen is achieved by a combination of several mechanisms including indirect stimulation of host plant defence responses and by a unique type of biological control involving the development of micro-organisms that are antagonistic to the growth of the pathogen in the zone immediately adjacent to the roots.

A very satisfactory result was achieved and by December the tree was recovering well. I carried out a further treatment in March 2025 (with autumn being the preferred treatment time) and then with help from Margaret Tucker and the gardening team we did another treatment in March 2026. We are not sure if yearly treatment will be required but the team has the equipment, the chemical and the knowledge if it is needed.



Damage to feeder roots caused by the pathogen



The fungus growing on an artificial medium



December 2024

## Masterpoint Secretary's Report

In April, I processed results for 38 sections from 29 sessions yielding 144.09 green and 40.32 gold masterpoints. So far for the ABF Masterpoint year (Oct-April, or 7 months) we have earned 906.08 green, 202.50 red and 165.12 gold points. The ten largest clubs in Queensland are:

Rank	Club	Home Members
1	Toowong Bridge Club Inc	585
2	Queensland Contract Bridge Club	419
3	Northern Suburbs Bridge Club Inc	409
4	Gold Coast Bridge Club	349
5	Sunshine Coast Contract Bridge Club Inc	340
6	Noosa Bridge Club Inc	292
7	Surfers Paradise Bridge Club Incorporated	275
8	Caloundra Contract Bridge Club Inc	272
9	<b>Toowoomba Bridge Club Inc</b>	269
10	Kenmore Bridge Club	260
... 29	Goondiwindi Bridge Club	52
... 33	Darling Downs Bridge Club	42
... 38	Dalby Bridge Club	39
... 44	Warwick Bridge Club	33
... 45	Roma Bridge Club	31
... 46	Lockyer Bridge Club	30
... 51	Stanthorpe Bridge Club	17

There are a number of clubs that are not affiliated with the ABF, and their numbers are not represented in any published data. As at 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026, the ABF had a total of 30,047 registered players coming from:

ACT	972
NSW	10,973
Vic	5,047
Qld	6,222
SA	2,505
WA	3,610
Tas	782
NT	116

The World Bridge Federation has approx. 530,000 players registered in 107 constituent National Bridge Organizations (The ABF being one of them). In 2015, the biggest NBO's were: USA 153,000; France 105,500; Netherlands 86,800; China 61,100; England 37,190; Australia 34,700; Germany 27,300; Italy 25,400; Denmark 23,150; Sweden 23,100 and Canada 19,960.

Hopefully this answers the few questions I have received lately 😊.

Rank Promotions for April are:

NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs	2026 MPs	2026 RANK
Lincoln, Dennis	Life	344.71	18.08	869
Coggan, Harold	Silver Local	35.15	3.53	6,386
Reeves, Genevieve	Bronze Local	25.06	3.68	6,174
Callaghan, Sally	Club	5.04	2.18	9,318

Cheers  
Chris



**Australian Bridge** **ABF**

## Australia-Wide Novice Pairs

for players with 100MP or fewer as at 31 March

**Date: Monday Afternoon 25th May**

The Australia-Wide Novice Pairs has a rich history that goes back more than 30 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 gifts and prizes than ever before

Also included in the \$5 entry fee, every participant will receive two discount vouchers: a \$5 discount on our Novice magazine, and exclusive discounts at our book store. In addition there are over \$3000 worth of prizes, including book and CD vouchers for the top 10 pairs, and subscription prizes for the top 50 pairs. And the top pairs at each club will receive Winners' Certificates.

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.

The top five pairs nationwide will also receive beautiful Australia-Wide pens, engraved with your name, and all pairs scoring over 52% (scored across the field) will receive **Red Masterpoints**.

## 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 😊

**Joyce Benson Cup:** Wednesday Afternoons 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May & 3<sup>rd</sup> June for red masterpoints.

Played in two sections (Open and Novice) over three weeks. First week is a qualifying session, and the top 12 pairs will advance into the Final that runs over weeks two and three. Those not in the final will play in regular walk-in sessions over weeks two and three.

**Australia-Wide Novice Pairs:** Monday Afternoon 25<sup>th</sup> May. Play the same boards as about 500 pairs around Australia – receive a detailed commemorative booklet discussing the hands that you play. We will also be running our regular Open section (and will play the same boards so we get the benefit of the hand analysis although our Open section will not be part of the competition.

**Toowoomba Under 500 & Novice Teams congress:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**Winter Woolly Pairs:** 10:00am Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

**Darling Downs Bridge Club Pairs and Teams congress:** Sat-Sun 27-28<sup>th</sup> June

**Lockyer Pairs congress:** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July

**Graded Birthday Pairs:** Monday Afternoon 6<sup>th</sup> July

**Club Pairs Championship:** Three Wednesday Afternoons 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> July. Open and Novice section.

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*

## Website Changes

As announced via a Pianola message, we have relocated our website to a new address:

**toowoomba.bridgeaustralia.org**

It will take a long time for this address to be reflected by google searches. Meanwhile there is a link from the old **toowoombabridgeclub.com.au** to the new site. You can speed up the changes to google by bookmarking and using the new address directly ... so that eventually google will forget about the old one.

Cheers

*Chris*

## Director Training

I am a tad busy at the moment, so will not be able to start new director training face-to-face in the clubrooms for a while. In the meantime, I am running two Director training courses online via Zoom. I do this for the QBA and all clubs in Queensland. There are two courses (details below), and I'd love to see some of you join in.

### Training for New (single session) Directors

The next online (Zoom) training course for new Directors is **Wednesday, 20th May** (9:00-12:30). This workshop will cover basic laws and is suitable for new Directors, players thinking about directing, and those working toward completing the **QBA Director Proficiency assessment**.

This is the best course for players wanting to improve their playing game and/or dipping their toe into the Directing pond. You'd be a great help if you could take a few calls on the busy days (with a more experienced Director keeping an eye on things).

Register via MyABF (<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4307>). Zoomlink will be emailed to participants when their registration is complete. No charge for this course.

### Training for Club Directors

The next online (Zoom) training course for Club Directors is two days: **Wednesday, 27th May** (9:00-12:00) and **Wednesday, 3rd June** (9:00-12:00). This workshop is particularly suited to those Directors who have greater responsibility for directing in their club (including multi-session events and teams' events), for those who are seeking accreditation as a **QBA Club Director**, or as a refresher for those already accredited.

Register via MyABF (<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4309>). Zoomlink will be emailed to participants when their registration is complete. No charge for this course.

## 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).

## April Monthly Winners

Monday PM Open	Dennis Lincoln
Monday PM Novice	Mark Hunt & Terry Sheedy
Tuesday Night	Mohan Trada & Chris Snook
Wednesday AM Restricted	Barbara Davage
Wednesday PM Open	Will Higgins & Adrian Mayers
Wednesday PM Novice	Marie Steger
Thursday Night	Rozalyn Wright & Desley Hanrahan
Friday Morning	John Churchett & Marie Steger
Friday PM	Henry Eastment

And on the congress scene:

## Toowoomba X-IMP Pairs

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Denise Hartwig & Chris Snook
B 1 <sup>st</sup>	John Churchett & Trevor Henderson
B 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kathy Duke & Julie Pigdon
C 1 <sup>st</sup>	Terry Sheedy & Trevor Corthorne

## Dalby Swiss Pairs

B 1 <sup>st</sup>	Barbara Wippell & Kim Nicoll
C 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pauline Lutton & Elizabeth Anderson

## Dalby Teams

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kathy Duke & Dennis Lincoln & Laurie-Marie
McRoberts & Julie Pigdon	

Well done everyone.

Cheers

*Chris*