



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

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



Ed: : Glenys Clift February 2026

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Bridge is now well and truly underway for 2026.

February sees the Club Teams Championship on Sunday 1

February and Patron's Day on Saturday 21 February. Both these events are important events on our calendar and red masterpoints are available for both.

It would be great to see a large turnout for both events. Happy bridging into 2026.

President Greg

UNDER 500 & NOVICE CONGRESS



Treasurer's Report for the month ended 31st December 2025



Cash Flow for the month of December resulted in an increase of \$14,827.57 due to Membership Subscriptions received. We currently have 5 Life Members, 253 Home Members, and 33 Away Members. Membership renewal fees collected total \$19,826.80. Annual QBA and ABF Levies payable as at 31 March estimated \$13,725.60 (i.e. 258 x [\$26.60 x 2]).

Support has been provided to several members seeking guidance on paying their annual membership fees.

Current Assets Held as at 31 December 2025:-

- Heritage Bank General Account - **\$7,016.43**
- Heritage Bank Online Saver Account 2.45% - **\$15,509.23**
- Heritage Bank Term Deposit, due 27 April 26 3.850% – **\$70,000**
- MyABF - **\$23,240.70**

GST inclusive Table Fees collected in December – \$6,192.

Have fun in 2026 while continuing to build excellence in bridge!

Marie

Thank you Henry Eastment



In 2025 Henry Eastment resigned as a Director of the Toowoomba Bridge Club. Henry's involvement with directing goes back to the 1970's when he was appointed an Assistant Director for the Toowoomba Bridge Club's 3- day Congress. Back then directors were appointed based on their experience and knowledge of the laws. Although since then, he has also qualified as a club director with the QBA

Henry has served on 21 Committees – being President twice, Vice President and Treasurer four times for both. He has also taken on the office holders' positions of Congress Convenor, Membership Secretary, Librarian for three years and served on numerous sub-committees, particularly those involved in building the club house in Stuart Street and setting up the club's Strategic Plan.

Henry is still a very active member, playing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Patrons Day – Graded Pairs

Thank you Clive Berghofer AO



Prizes in each grade

1st \$250, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100

Additional \$100 prize in C-grade for highest placed Rookie (<10) pair.

Director: Chris Snook
Convenor/Scorer: Chris Snook Tel: 0413 136 435
Date: Saturday 21st February 2026

Play Starts: 9:30am – please be seated by 9:15.

- A two-session pairs event (9:30am-12:45pm and 1:15pm-4:30pm).
- **Prior entry** is required to allow for seeding and to plan the movement.
- **Entry Fee:** \$12 per player (eg \$6 normal table fees per session) payable by MyABF Credits when you enter.
- Format to be decided by the Director based on the number of entries.
 - A Grade – Open to all players
 - B Grade – Both players must have fewer than 150 masterpoints
 - C Grade – Both players must have fewer than 50 masterpoints
 - Small fields may be combined, but prize money will be awarded in each grade.
 - Pairs may ask to play in a higher grade, but not a lower one.
 - Winners of Open section awarded the **Clive Berghofer Pairs** title.
- BYO Lunch

Please enter via the “events” section of the club website (which will lead you to the MyABF system where you will enter and pay in advance). If you need assistance with MyABF please speak with Trevor Henderson, David Roberts or Chris Snook.

MyABF Link = <https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/3888>.

CLIVE BERGHOFER AO
PATRON of the TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

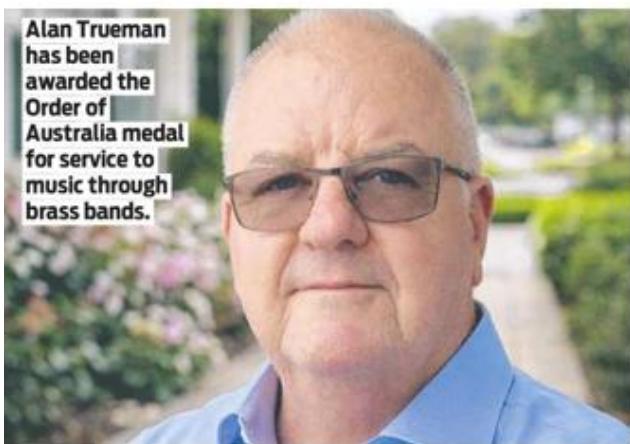


For those members who are relatively new to the Toowoomba Bridge Club, the following is a synopsis of what Clive Berghofer has contributed towards our club and why we are so fortunate in having him as our Patron.

There is a detailed explanation of Clive Berghofer's contribution to our building fund in the Bridge Club History, but briefly, after he had already agreed to fund the air-conditioning (\$70,000), just prior to the commencement of construction a quantity surveyor gave us a new update on costs and at that point, we found we were \$55,000 short. When we approached Clive and explained our problem, he brought all his construction workers back from leave and had them do all the site works given that the site for the club was on a sloping hill, in preparation for the builder. Problem solved. When the club started fund-raising in 2004, we had \$110,000 – the final cost including building, gardens & car parking was well in excess of \$700,000.

Since then, each year he has contributed \$1000 towards the prize money for Patron's Day with the club contributing another \$500.

Congratulations Alan Trueman OAM



Alan Trueman who joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 2025, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to music.

"He competed in his first brass band concert 60 years ago and over the years conducted The Surfers Paradise Brass Band and was the president of the State Band Association.....Even though he no longer performs, he has been the secretary of the Surfers Paradise band for the past 15 years."

The Toowoomba Chronicle (26/1)



Looking for
playing firefighters, military, law enforcement, emergency medical services
bridge-

Dear friends,

We're interested in connecting with some first responders who play bridge. We are exploring an idea about possibly having some of these people on the show. If you know someone in this category who'd be open to having an off-air chat with us, no strings attached, that would be great.

Thanks!

Catherine and Jocelyn

Co-hosts

[SORRY, PARTNER PODCAST](#)

Email: sorrypartnerpodcast@gmail.com

Excerpt from the Australian Bridge Federation website

SORRY, PARTNER is a podcast about bridge (the card game) and the worldwide community of bridge players, presented by bridge partners and besties, Catherine Harris and Jocelyn Startz. Combining laughter and learning, the program aims to connect with beginners and experts alike. Find episodes at their website: sorrypartner.com

Welcome Barbara and Geoff Rydon



Barbara and Geoff Rydon have joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club after many years of Australian and world travel. They have decided to settle in Toowoomba so that they can be of help, when needed, to their daughter and son-in-law as they raise their 3 children out on a farm some 2.5 hours west of here.

They are both keen bridge players and spent many years with the Surfers Paradise Bridge Club before commencing their travels. They are looking forward to meeting fellow club members.



Congress Director
Sue Holburt



Convenor Kathy Duke

UNDER 500MP



Under 500

1st Place: **Shanaal de Zoysa & Hema de Zoysa**

2nd Place: **Trevor Henderson & Dennis Lincoln**

3rd Place: **Lynette Crookall & Tomasina de Luca**



1ST Hema De Zoysa & Shanaal De Zoysa



2nd Dennis Lincoln & (missing) Trevor Henderson



3rd Lynette Crookall & Tomasina De Luca

NOVICE



Novice

1st Place: **Bruce Coward &**

Debra Coward

2nd Place: **Alison Banks & Teena**

Haslam

3rd Place: **Lucy Parker &**
Graeme Ryan

Top B Grade Special Prize: **Karen**
Hay & Andrew Hay



1ST Debra Coward & Bruce Coward



2nd Teena Haslam & Alison Banks with Greg Munck

& Karen & Andrew Hay 1ST B Grade



TABLE 1
No 1 Photographer Susie Fraser

No 1 Winners Hema & Shanaal

No 1 Husband Sandy Fraser



Ann Williams & Rosemary Goodsell



Julie Pigdon



Raffle Winners Dave Roberts
Tomasina De Luca & Sue Holburt

Ann Williams & Rosemary Goodsell looked after the kitchen during the morning, and Julie Pigdon took over for lunch and the afternoon. Ann, Rosemary and Julie also helped the director as a caddy.

Under 500 / Novice Pairs Congress – 18 January 2026

The Under 500 and Novice Pairs Congress was held on Saturday 18 January and proved to be a very successful day for the club. We hosted 12 tables in the Under 500 section and 10 tables in the Novice section, with players travelling from Brisbane, Dalby, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, along with many local Toowoomba members.

We were delighted to welcome Sue Holburt as Tournament Director for the event. Sue was well supported in the lead-up by Chris Snook, and apart from a couple of minor technical issues (which were no fault of hers), the Congress ran smoothly and efficiently. Thorough preparation ensured the day went to plan, despite Chris being unavailable due to directing duties in Canberra.

Catering was outstanding, thanks to the generous and delicious donations from members. A wide variety of savoury and sweet options was available throughout the day, and after play there was a great selection of snacks and drinks, including vegetarian and gluten-free platters. Sincere thanks go to Chris Snook for his extensive preparation and guidance beforehand. Well done to Marie Steger for organising the raffle and some great prizes. And thanks to Gretchen Graf for coming in early to assist with the ticket sales.

Thank you also to Sue and her husband Greg for assisting with setup the day before, ensuring everything ran smoothly on the day, and finalising the masterpoint results.

Special thanks to Julie Pigdon, Ann Williams, and Rosemary Goodsell, who worked tirelessly in the kitchen and also assisted Sue as caddies when required. Thanks also to Michael Kaiser for organising the bar, as always, and ensuring everyone enjoyed a well-earned refreshment at the end of play.

Finally, thank you to all members who registered, participated, contributed food, and helped with setup on Friday and the tidy-up on Sunday evening. Your efforts made this a highly successful Congress for the Toowoomba Bridge Club. **Kathy**

NEW MEMBERS 2025



Mark Phythian

I recently retired from the University of Southern Qld after teaching Engineering there for over thirty-five years. Having now retired, my wife Liz and I are looking forward to travelling more as well as me indulging my passion for the theatre, singing, and of course, learning to play bridge.

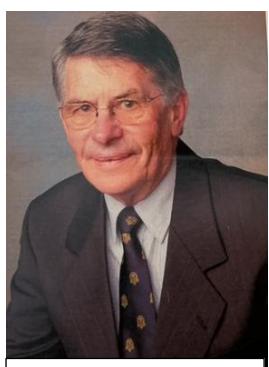
I have been singing baritone with the all-male A Capella chorus High Altitude Harmony since 2008 and have been acting, directing and much more at the Toowoomba Repertory Theatre over the last 20 years. My next appearance at Rep is in the play 'The Games Afoot' at the end of February. I have also started to rebuild my dad's old model railway in a spare room at home, thus giving me an opportunity to have some fun applying my computing and electronics skills.



Christine Downing

I moved to Toowoomba in February 2025. Leaving my small farm in Goornong, Victoria. I have been a horse rider all my life and once owned & edited an equestrian magazine "RIDER". The reason for the move (apart from the current government) was to be with my daughter and grandsons, who spoil me a lot.

I'm enjoying Toowoomba as it reminds me so much of Bendigo with its rich history and beautiful buildings, parks and gardens. I'm so glad I discovered bridge and I look forward to learning more about this fascinating game.



John Handley

I grew up on a dairy farm at Murphy's Creek. After boarding school at Toowoomba Grammar, I became a primary teacher and taught at Roma, Cockatoo Creek (since closed 1963), Bell and Toowoomba. From 1977 to 2005 I was the Executive Director of the Toowoomba Education Centre at U.S.Q.

With my wife, I have recently moved from acreage to Seachange. I am 85 this year and thoroughly enjoying playing bridge but fear I have started my new interest far too late.



John Nitschke

Grew up in Crystal Brook, SA and worked for the family on a wool growing property at Keith in the days when wool was fetching £1 a pound. At the age of 20 started a 5-year telephone technician apprenticeship. Once completed, moved to Qld where I bought a cattle property in partnership with my father at Leyburn. Loved fast cars – the result of which I ended up in hospital with a broken neck, where I met my wife Ann who was nursing.

Ann and I lived at Blink Bonnie where we had 3 children, raised cattle and my wife worked for the Blue Nurses. Sold in 2005 and bought a hobby farm at Greenmount running 20 cattle. Retired to Seachange and looking forward to travelling, enjoy gardening and of course, bridge.



Jenny Bridge

Born in Brisbane, 1950, then moved to family property, Giligulgul, near Miles and also Rabaul PNG. Various boarding schools, Sydney Uni Arts, married and moved to Adelaide for 10 years, 3 children. School teacher in Adelaide, then Armidale, then 1996 to London where husband was a history professor. Divorced. Worked in London as a Librarian at various institutions, including The Tate, the last being at Sotheby's Art Library. Moved in May to Toowoomba and found Toowoomba Bridge Club. I played Whist with Granny when I was 6 and have enjoyed cards ever since. I really love the space, clean air and gardening in Toowoomba.



Alan Trueman

I retired to Toowoomba in September 2024 after 48 years teaching and recommenced playing Bridge with Trudie's lessons in April 2025. Previously I played in 1978 and 1979 with a group of fellow teachers at Cavendish Rd SHS.

I must say I am absolutely loving playing Bridge again and the atmosphere at the Toowoomba Bridge Club has been warm and welcoming with lots of support for a (re)beginning player.

Thank you very much to all concerned.



Kevin Grace

I was born and raised in Toowoomba, being schooled at Harlaxton State Primary and Toowoomba State High School. Scholarship and Junior passes. Main employment – served for 20 years in the RAAF as the Equipment Liaison Officer responsible for organising personnel, equipment and Hercules Aircraft for training deployments around the country, based in Williamtown Air Base then Melbourne. After I left the service, I worked for Bulk Grains in Toowoomba which liaised with the State Wheat Board until they were taken over by GrainCorp which eventually relocated all its operations to NSW between 2005-2015.



Diane Montgomery

I'm a bush girl born in Mungindi, a little border town west of Goondiwindi. After marrying Robert, our lives were pretty busy with 4 children, running a little supermarket cafe for twenty years, being involved with community activities such as P&C, tennis etc and supporting our children's activities related to their schooling. We spent 40 years there during which time, two of our children went to boarding school in Tamworth for high school. We moved to Toowoomba in 1987.

During my working time here have done many things including working as a cook at a Retirement Village as well as catering. I have been a card player all my life, playing crib with my parents and over the years, lots of 500 and Canasta. My challenge now is this game of Bridge and it sure is a challenge but enjoying it. Living at Palm Lakes has been a great decision as well.



Beginners' Lessons

The next intake for Basic Beginner Lessons will commence at:

8:45-11:30am Wednesday mornings Starting 4 Feb 2026

6:45 - 9:30pm Thursday Evenings Starting 5 Feb 2026

For more details and to pre-register your interest, call Dave on 0414852303 or email Dave if you prefer dr4350@gmail.com

You can come with or without a partner. Cost per lesson is \$5.

Please arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.

Lesson Schedule for Beginners

Week	Content
1	4 /2/26 Introduction to Bridge
2	11/2/26 Bidding 1NT
3	18/2/26 Practice
4	25/2/26 Bidding 1H or 1S
5	4/3/26 Practice
6	11/3/26 Bidding 1C or 1D
7	18/3/26 Practice
8	25/3/26 Double
9	1/4/26 Overcall
10	8/4/26 Practice
11	15/4/26 Practice
12	22/4/26 Practice

PLEASE NOTE

Beginner Lessons are open to any member who would like a refresher of any particular topic

Intermediate Lessons start at the end of April.

Cheers Dave Roberts

Lesson Schedule for Intermediates

Week Content

- 1 The Simple Overcall & both sides in the bidding
- 2 Supervised Play
- 3 Takeout Doubles & more on entering the auction
- 4 Supervised Play
- 5 Pre-emptive Bids weak 3 & 4 level opening bids
- 6 Pre-emptive Bids weak 2 level opening bids
- 7 Supervised Play
- 8 Simple Transfers after 1NT opening: 2D → 2H, 2H → 2S
- 9 Supervised Play
- 10 2C Stayman looking for a major fit after partner opens 1NT
- 11 Supervised Play
- 12 Slam Bidding Suit Contracts - Blackwood 4NT
- 13 Slam Bidding Notrump Contracts 4C Gerber
- 14 Supervised Play
- 15 Opening Strong Balanced Hands
- 16 Supervised Play
- 17 Opening Strong Unbalanced Hands
- 18 Supervised Play

TOP-TAIL PAIRS



N/S Winners Jenny Buckley & Paula Munck E/W Winners Kerry Brown & Joan Brownlie



Megan Twine, Cecily McCleod, Director Kathy Duke Anne Kirkpatrick & Kathleen Mulherin

TOP-TAIL PAIRS



Judy Barkla, Rosanne Munns, Jane O'Sullivan, Thea Hayes, standing - Anna Michaels, Dale Burey, Brenda Quick



**Peter Field, David Edwards
Hema de Zoysa Christine Downing**



**Oliver Dashwood Ruth Hanson
Kevin Grace Judy Brewer**



Toowoomba Top-Tail Pairs – A Great Day Out

The Toowoomba Top-Tail Pairs was held on **20 January** and proved to be a very successful event, with a fabulous turnout of **15 tables**. To ensure a good mix of players, a few additional “tops” were needed, and a big thank you goes to those last-minute call-ups who responded so willingly. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with plenty of positive feedback received. After play concluded, many members stayed on to enjoy drinks, snacks, and some relaxed social time with fellow club members.

Results Summary

- 1st Place NS: **Jenni Buckley and Paula Munck**
- 1st Place EW: **Kerry Brown and Joan Brownlie**

B-Grade Winners: (paired total masterpoints under 100: **Robert Ramsay and Judy Barkla**

Given how well the event was received, it is likely to be run again in the future. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such an enjoyable and successful day. Please email me if you would like to provide any feedback or further suggestions for improving this event.

Kathy Duke

Secretary@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au

Congratulations to Julie Pigdon



The club is delighted to congratulate **Julie Pigdon** on an outstanding year of achievement. Julie, along with her partner **Liz Zeller**, won the 2025 Australian National Women's Pairs Championship and they were selected to represent Queensland in the **2025 Queensland Open Women's Team**, where they performed extremely well against strong competition.

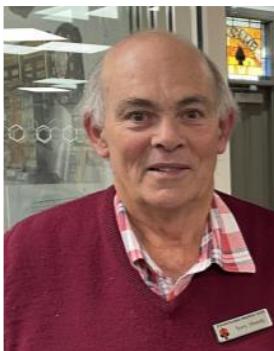
Adding to this success, Julie went on to win the **state equivalent of the McCutcheon Award**, the prestigious nationwide award recognising the most master points earned across all categories. In Queensland, this honour is known as the **James O'Sullivan Award**, and Julie secured **first place in the State category**.

A sterling effort by any measure. Congratulations to Julie from all of us at the club — and welcome back from your overseas jaunts!

Thanks

Kathy

Building Maintenance



Since Christmas, not much going on. Tuesday 20th we had Wormalds drop in to check the fire extinguishers and fire blanket to ensure that they are still suitable for use should the unthinkable happen.

I took the opportunity to check out the slow sink drain while that inspection was under way. A dishwasher tablet in each of two lots of boiling water was given a chance to soften up the grime, which was subsequently scraped free and rinsed down the drain.

Hopefully that has the sink draining much better for the foreseeable future.

Come February, the Residual Current Devices are to be tested (in-house), the emergency lights are to be inspected by a licenced electrician, and the Air Con system will require a clean and service.

We probably need to think about having the Honour Boards brought up to date for the 2025 events. **Terry Sheedy**



LIBRARY NEWS

We have a few new additions into our little collection mostly from anonymous donors, so thank you to them.

There's an extra copy of Klinger's The Bridge Player who laughed, so a fun book to read along with your partner.

We've also been given two extra copies of an oldie but a goodie (according to our resident experts): Mollo and Gardner's Card Play Technique: The Art of Being Lucky.

I'm sure many Bridge players are either concerned about, or else amused by, the title! Then there's another copy of Barbara Seagram's Bidding Tips, and a few other hidden gems.

Thanks to readers who return books promptly after reading, or who actually just return them.

Happy Reading
Gretchen



Toowoomba Bridge Club Inc

X-IMP Pairs Congress

Sunday 22 March 2026

Director: Jo Neary

Convenor: Chris Snook



Venue	Toowoomba Bridge Club, 55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba
Time	Registration is 9:00am for a 9:30 start
Director	Jo Neary
How to enter	Entry and payment via MyABF. Navigate to: https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/3889 or to the "Events" section on the club website.
Entries Close	4 pm Friday 20 March 2026, or earlier if limit of 30 tables is reached.
Entry Fee	\$70 per pair (\$35 per player). Pay via My ABF Credits for the pair, or individually. Entries should be paid in full by the closing time or risk withdrawal from the event
Format	QBA Regulations apply. Red masterpoints at appropriate B4 rate per win and draw plus outright awards to the top third of each field. Masterpoints are not guaranteed without correct ABF Numbers. Green, Blue and Red systems and Brown Sticker treatments are allowed. Each pair must have 2 systemically identical ABF system cards at the start of each round.
Prizes	1st – \$250 2nd - \$160 3rd - \$120. Paid by MyABF credits.
Catering	BYO Lunch. Refreshments available all day. Drinks & savouries at the end of play.
Contact	Convenor Chris Snook 0413136435 or congresses@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au

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.



Date Claimers

- **Club Teams Championship:** Sunday 1st February (two sessions) starting at 9:30am. This is an honour board event with recognition for Open, Restricted (<300) and Novice teams. If there are at least six teams in each field, then we will run as separate events, otherwise we all play together in the one field but with separate honour board recognition. BYO lunch and a few nibbles to share. We usually have drinks, nibbles and a chat afterwards.
- **GNOT (Grand National Open Teams):** Friday afternoons 6th & 13th February. Nominate a team of four, five or six players to play in this club event. If someone can't play both weeks you may use other people/or pairs provided you do not exceed six in total.
The GNOT is run by the ABF for members of clubs all around Australia and is the only event where you can earn gold masterpoints playing in your own club against your peers. There are about 1700 teams (7000 players) that start this event – making it one of the largest in the world.
Toowoomba club has two more qualifying heats, Heat B on Wednesday Afternoons 11th & 18th March, and Heat C on Tuesday Nights 21st & 28th April.
The winners of these club heats earn the right to advance to the Zone Final (against top teams from the other participating clubs in our zone – Darling Downs, Dalby, Warwick, Stanthorpe, Roma, Lockyer, Goondiwindi). The top two teams from our zone final earn the right to advance to the “National Qualifying Final” in September and the top 8 teams after that play in the National Final in Brisbane in November.
The 12 highest placed non-metropolitan teams also play in an event in November.
- **Patron's Day:** Saturday 21st February
This is a two-session event for all club members. It is divided into three grades with recognition for the winners and prizes (\$250, \$150 and \$100) in each grade.
The winners of the Open section are also recognised as the winners of the Clive Berghofer Pairs.
- **Zone Pairs Qualifier:** Sunday 1st March.
Open to members of all clubs in our zone, although it will mostly be Toowoomba folk. Play for red masterpoints locally, plus the top few pairs qualify for subsidy to play in the Queensland Open Pairs in October. If you don't want to play in the state final your place is offered to the next qualifier.
- **Ivy Dahler Cup:** Three Monday afternoons 2nd, 9th & 16th March for red masterpoints. The field will be divided into two grades (Open and Novice). Actual format depends on the number of entries but will involve one session of qualifying. The top 12 pairs in each grade then play in a two-session final whilst the remaining pairs play regular bridge (still for red masterpoints).

- **Tuesday Night Pairs Competition:** 17th & 24th March for red masterpoints.
- **Toowoomba X-IMP Pairs congress:** Sunday 22nd March. I have managed to secure Jo Neary (from Toowong) to be our Director, so I might actually get to play (if someone will have me). In the past, this has been a Butler Pairs event. That is a method of scoring (named after Geoffrey Butler from the British Bridge Union) where your score was compared to the average of everyone else in the room and then scored by International Match Points – it was a bit like the average in the room were your team-mates. X-IMP means cross-IMP scoring, where your score is compared to each other table and then your final score is the average of all of them. Don't worry, the computer and bridgemates do all of the scoring, and I will show a full example in the next newsletter.

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*



From your Ed

The newsletter wouldn't happen unless I had the support of our Committee, Office Holders and members who contribute each month. Thank you.

In the next week or so, I will be contacting a few more of those members who joined in 2024-2025 whom I haven't yet asked to provide a little bit about themselves and their photos for the newsletter.

I understand that some people feel self-conscious and don't feel comfortable talking about themselves. But you only share what you like – in fact some people don't talk about what they have done at all; they talk their family, their interests or simply why they decided to learn how to play bridge. But putting in a little bit about our members certainly makes the newsletter more interesting and as far as I am concerned, adds a personal touch. And after all, while the Committee runs the club – it wouldn't exist without its members.