

# Byron Bridge Club Bulletin

April 2025

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Members,

This is my first newsletter. Content outline and format may change but the primary objective is good information and readability.

At our recent meeting, the committee unanimously agreed to position the Byron Bridge Club as a "happy place," (my words) emphasizing a blend of friendly camaraderie and competitive spirit. This vision aims to foster an environment where members can enjoy the intellectual challenge of bridge while building strong social connections.

## Initiatives to Enhance Our Club's Atmosphere

To bring this vision to life, we are implementing several initiatives:

- **The post play wine tasting has been fun and we encourage those to want to stay for a glass to do so subject to Patricia's availability as the RSA.** Brian has done a great job organising the wine education/tasting sessions but now want to hand the reigns to someone else. These regular social gatherings beyond our bridge sessions help our community bonds. Volunteer required to organise three wine tasting/learning sessions during the rest of this year.
- **Structured Teaching Programs:** Our beginner's lessons are designed not only to introduce new players to the game but also to integrate them seamlessly into our weekly games, ensuring a supportive learning environment. Ruth and Renia have done great work with the current group of trainees who finish their lessons this week. To retain these people, we now need members to volunteer to spend two hours prior to our Friday bridge developing the trainees' skills further before they join our afternoon sessions. Please contact Ruth or Renia who will match you to a trainee and provide you with some insight into what is needed for each person. You will find this very rewarding experience.
- **Recognition and Appreciation:** We plan to introduce monthly awards and acknowledgments to celebrate individual and team achievements, fostering a culture of appreciation. I know each person is more than happy to contribute but it may be nice to acknowledge their effort from time to time.

## Summary of meeting 11 April 2025

The April meeting was well-attended with all committee members present and no apologies noted. The minutes from February 2025 were confirmed, and a wide range of correspondence was received and accepted. Notable items included invoices from Byron Parish, confirmation of member list updates by the Masterpoint Centre, and responses regarding beginner bridge lessons. Byron Parish reiterated its position on WiFi and rejected the club's offer to install a defibrillator, although they expressed general interest in the idea. Outgoing correspondence included requests for improved hall facilities, administrative updates, and the dissemination of the March–September Friday roles roster.

Reports from key office bearers highlighted the club's ongoing stability and planning. The Treasurer's report showed a modest surplus and stable finances, while the Secretary confirmed strong membership renewals, administrative compliance, and updated communication channels. Updates were provided on masterpoints, volunteer-supported afternoon teas, and plans for upcoming beginner sessions. Some infrastructure issues were discussed, including ineffective phone hotspots and heating options, with interim solutions agreed upon.

Several operational matters and initiatives were addressed. Integration plans for new bridge learners were endorsed, while internet access and equipment issues like heaters and fans were reviewed with practical resolutions. The Parish's indecision about a defibrillator led to a delay in club action on the matter. Committee and member roles were assigned or reaffirmed, including positions for archiving, newsletter, website management, and a wine-tasting event. Plans were made for the 2025 Charity Day, supporting the HIYA 2479 project and the "Biggest Morning Tea." Other decisions included the purchase of a dedicated Treasurer's computer and the introduction of a secure key register. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 13th June

Ken McLean - President

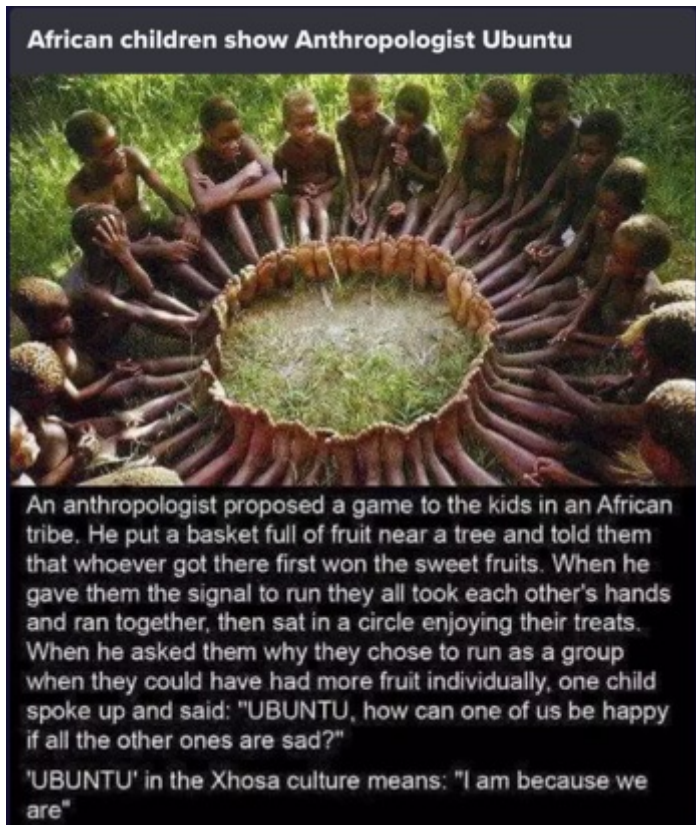
PS Ubuntu

Clive is one of our valued players who contributes time and effort to help us understand bridge and play better. This selfless attitude reflects Clive's philosophy which is embodied in a charity he has founded in Zimbabwe - Ubuntu. Ubuntu is an ancient African word meaning 'humanity to others'. It is often described as reminding us that 'I am what I am because of who we all are' or put simply "I am because we are". This philosophy emphasises interconnectedness, community, sharing and mutual support. "A person is a person through other persons". I have attached a short description which Clive has provided. Please talk with Clive how you can help leverage you input into this valuable endeavour.

# Ubuntu

Ubuntu is an ancient African word meaning 'humanity to others'. It is often described as reminding us that 'I am what I am because of who we all are' or put simply "I am because we are".

The image and narrative below are a perfect example of Ubuntu.



In our first world bubble we seldom realise how fortunate we are to have hot, clean running water, a roof over our head, electricity, access to a health service, access to the internet, garbage removal service, transport and so much more. To us its just a normal part of life.

To the impoverished in rural Zimbabwe these are all luxuries. But for a thatched roof hut, they have very little else.

Makthula is a charity I started in rural Zimbabwe, to provide a little something to people who have nothing. My thought was that if I start with children's education, perhaps we can try and break the cycle of poverty.

To this end, my charity tries to focus on providing schools with a 'Makthula Package' which includes Solar, internet, laptops and games. Realising that this will be a slow process I decided to kick start the program by purchasing 7500 educational games. We are currently in the process of distributing 50 games to 150 schools while we work on the 'Makthula packages'. The games include Chess, mastermind and rummy cub.

I run this charity for people who have no voice, and no means to uplift or change their lives. The people I represent would appreciate any donation, no matter how big or small.

The website, [www.makthula.com](http://www.makthula.com) has more information and images. It also explains the genesis of my idea and the people who motivated me.