

Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with monthly club news



March 2026

President's Report

As you are all aware at the AGM last Friday I became your president once again for the 2026 bridge year. I do hope that you don't see this as a "ground hog day" and I will have all of your support throughout this year. I didn't rush back into this position as I wasn't 100% sure of the response I would receive from the members. But it's a done deal now and I am glad to be back. It would be ridiculous to say there won't be similarities to my previous terms as I am still me but it is my hope, with your input, that we can make this an enjoyable bridge year at the club.

I asked members on Friday for your input on what YOU would like to see happen in your club. To me your input is such an important part of our club. We only meet once a week and it's easy to get it to the habit of just repeating the same things each week as that is our comfort zone. I think it's good to change the format occasionally. I look forward to your hearing your ideas and any feedback you may have. All ideas and feedback will be presented at the next committee meeting which will be very soon.

Don't forget on March 26th it is the Lismore Bridge Club Charity Bridge Day. I urge you to support this day at our fellow local regional club.

An early reminder – Our Autumn Pairs are to be held on 10th and 17th April.

Our Bridge Blitz lessons are a new idea we tried this year for lessons for new players. The first session was last Saturday and the second is this coming Saturday. I will attend in Saturday and hopefully we can encourage some new bridge players in our region.

Happy bridge playing

Eda

We meet every Friday at the All Saints H 1 Ashton St Bangalow . We ask that you be seated by 12.15pm for play to commence at 12.30.

Join us for a social time afterwards BYO + glass

Directory

President Eda Bridgeman 0411 872 423/66930359
Vice President Eric Bridgeman 0435 123 404
Secretary Leo Prendergast 0429 672 262
Treasurer Neil McKenzie 0402 455 896
Partner Co-ordinator Peter Roger 0421635305
Masterpoints Helen Baker 0401 669 639
Afternoon Teas Lorraine McKenzie 0417 705 439
Committee Members: Kay Milne, Edna D'Cruz, Patricia Ellis, Edith Macauley, Ken McLean, Teresa Ebenstreit, Cher Assuage

LISMORE BRIDGE CHARITY DAY 26th March

I have started playing regularly at Lismore on a Thursday and the club would really appreciate our support on their Charity Day. Sue Ryan is more than happy to organise a brunch prior to play if you are interested. Sue, Graeme, Pin, Allison and Robyn are all Lismore members who make the trek to us on a Friday, so it would be great to be able to reciprocate on the 26th.

Contact Alison on 0401 188 329 for info

NOVEMBER REMINDERS

WINE TASTING 13th March

Host Peter Roger – Sparkly Day
After bridge - \$5 per person – the best \$5 you will ever spend.

DRESS UP DAY **Friday**

A suggestion was made to come as your initial - but dressing in black is always a great choice for Friday 13th. You can be as scary as you like !!.

Opportunities for members to help !

An area I want to discuss is welfare officers. I'm not sure if you even realized we had them. A welfare officer (we need two - one for the ladies and one for the men) and their role in the club is to take note of who is absent over an extended period of time, members who we know are unwell or that something has upset them on a Friday afternoon. The welfare officers role is to contact them on behalf of the club. These are volunteer positions and not a part of the committee as such but can be taken on by a committee member if they would like to. Will two of you volunteer to take on these roles for this year?

Our club would also like a volunteer for a moderator. A moderator is someone who responds to an issue which occurs between two players at a club activity and this issue is then reported to the committee. The moderator's role is to discuss the "issue" between the two players and report back to the committee of the outcome. It's a role that is virtually never used in a club of our size but it's good to have a moderator in place just in case.

As most of you will know, our outreach program commenced last year at Feros Care Residential Village. This was an initiative from Ken McLean as president last year. Our club members went into the Village with all necessary equipment and set up a bridge game once a week for residents. A number of our members were volunteers, including me, and I really enjoyed the session and could see what enjoyment the residents got from the afternoon. I would not have thought of it as an idea, but was happy to support it as were a number of other members. Unfortunately, for various reasons, there are no longer enough players at the Village to sustain a game. Who knows if new residents move into that village it may again be possible in the future as the Village management were happy to see bridge as an activity available to its residents.

The club applied for and received a small grant from Byron Shire Council to support this activity and it would be a pity to see the grant having to be handed back to Council. The grant of course must be spent within Byron Shire . Ken has been looking for other Residential Aged Services in Byron Shire who may be interested in having us organize a bridge game at their facility. Unfortunately at this stage there has not been any interest from other services in the Shire. The Committee will consider this at its next meeting, and will discuss how we can keep this outreach going in our area.

Ken has been approached by St Andrews Village in Ballina who have a number of residents who would like to play, including some who had been regular players at Ballina Bridge Club prior to moving into residential care. We are not sure as yet whether the Byron Club members who had been involved at Feros would be available to travel over to Ballina to set up a bridge game over there. What I also don't want is to go across into the Ballina Shire and possibly "step on Ballina Bridge Club's toes". I approached the Ballina Club President re the possible outreach at St Andrews. She has indicated that Ballina Club will be happy to take on the project of providing bridge at the St Andrews facility. It is lovely top see what we can achieve by co-operation between our local clubs.

Eda Bridgeman – President