

Byron Bay Bridge Club Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with club news



President's Report

May 2024

Greetings to you all

I'm not one for focusing on time but my goodness I'm writing the May Newsletter editorial. Do you feel like saying this too...please time, slow down!

Unfortunately, I'll need to reiterate what I mentioned last Friday. We have received our first complaint from the Anglican Parish. I wasn't there so no fingers are being pointed at any one but the hall front door was left open. PLEASE the last person to leave can you check that the door is locked (the catch needs to be hinged at the top), lights and fans need to be turned off (and in the toilets too) and the floor needs to be tidied up from any paper etc dropped during the afternoon.

We have also had to ask permission to hold our wine tasting once a month as per our rental agreement so until we have this approval we will put May wine tasting on hold. With Patricia (our go-too person with the parish) recovering nicely but away these small issues seem to have arisen. Our secretary Leo will let you know when we hear back from the parish council.

I'm also asking for regular players to put their hand up to be directors at our club. You will be required to complete the course which is actually very interesting and trust me if I can do it any one can. It's an open book exam at the end and you will be supported by those already qualified. Please let Leo know if you are interested.

Have a great month and I'll see you around the bridge table.

Eda

We Play

Every Friday at the
All Souls' Anglican Church Hall
1 Ashton St Bangalow
We ask that you be seated by 12.15pm
for play to commence promptly at 12.30.
Table Fees: \$6 members/\$8 visitors
Join us for a social time afterwards.
BYO drinks & glass

Directory

President: Eda Bridgeman 0411 872 423/66930359
Vice President: Edna D'Cruz 0434 254 602
Secretary: Leo Prendergast 0429 672 262
Treasurer: Jeff Dolin 0455 315 099
Assist Treasurer: Brian Sundstrom
Committee Members: Helen Baker, Kay Milne, Lorraine McKenzie, Starlette Beaumont, Eileen Malabre, Edith McAuley, Andrea Herraman
Masterpoints: Helen Baker
Partner Co-Ordinator: Peter Roger 0421635305
Welfare Officers: Kay Milne & Peter Kiernan
Afternoon Teas: Lorraine McKenzie
Meet & Greet: on Fridays: Eric Bridgeman
Recorder: Peter Brosnan 0411 121 281

May Happenings

Week 1 3rd AUTUMN PAIRS Country Teams Regional Final Ballina
12 May
Week 2 AUTUMN PAIRS
10 May
WELCOME TO NEW PLAYERS
17 MAY

June Happenings

Club Championships
14 & 21 June





Byron Bay Bridge Club AGM Report

The AGM was held at 2.35 pm on Friday 5 April 2024
at All Souls Hall Bangalow

There were 26 members present,
four visitors and eleven apologies.
No proxy votes were registered.

Eda Bridgeman reported as President –

What a difference a year makes! We started 2023 at the Cavanbah Centre and after a misstep at the Bowlo we are now at the Anglican All Souls Hall in Bangalow and I'm sure I can confidently say that we are now in an environment that we can stay and play in comfortably for many years as the hall meets the majority of the bridge club's requirements. Options for cooling and heating are still being explored and I'm sure with the incoming committee this too will meet with members' approval.

Eda noted that since the club returned to the Bangalow area our membership base has grown. We are regularly achieving 9-11 tables and we hope to increase this again over the next 12 months. We have had the pleasure of old members returning as well as the addition of new members joining the Byron Club. Our popular afternoon teas are back courtesy of our members providing an array of homemade goodies. The club has 88 members with 50 home members.

Eda thanked a number of members and committee members for contributions made during 2023/24. Especially: Sue Ryan for her work on the regional bridge club booklet. Peter Quirke for helping introduce a handicap competition which runs from February to December. Leo Prendergast, our secretary, for tidying up our BBBC constitution making it simpler for members to read and understand.

Helen Baker, our Masterpoint's secretary, who uploads your green and red points without you even knowing about it. Greg Farrell, our treasurer for the last two years during which club finances have stabilized. Fay Bogg dealing our playing cards in her own home, Lorraine McKenzie organizing our afternoon teas after the retirement of Patricia Ellis who has been at the helm for many years. Kath Morgan for offering to do this year's beginner's lessons, Eric Bridgeman for being our enthusiastic Friday announcer with Peter Kiernan in his absence. Peter Roger, our partner coordinator, Claudia Kiernan always finding a member to share their story for the newsletter. Brian Sundstrom for organizing our first Friday in the month popular wine tasting after bridge. Our Directors and computer operators for their time on a Friday. Lastly, she thanks each and every member for their continued support of our club.

Finance The club has a bank balance of over \$32,000 and ran at a surplus of \$2500 for 2023. Members approved the Annual Financial Statement

Constitution Members unanimously resolved to approve by Special Resolution that "Byron Bay Bridge Club Constitution 2024" be adopted as the new club Constitution.

The 2024 Committee was elected

Pres – Eda Bridgeman; Vice Pres - Edna D'Cruz; Treasurer – Jeff Dolin;

Secretary – Leo Prendergast;

General Committee members: Edith McCauley, Brian Sundstrom, Helen Baker, Starlette Beaumont, Kay Milne, Eileen Malabre, Lorraine McKenzie, Andrea Herraman

Bridge Club Committee Musings



All Souls Hall

Our meeting with Graham, the Minister, Byron Anglican Parish, indicated that they would be unlikely to allow installation of air-conditioning in the hall but would be happy to upgrade the blinds and fans.

Membership

Two new home members over past three months. There are now 46 home members and 31 associate members.

Chair and table set up

There has been a change to the Chairs used for normal bridge set up each week. We are now only using the softer chairs. While they are heavier to use a number of members had tripped over the vases of the plastic chairs so we are no longer using them .

COMMITTEE MEMBER JOBS FOR 2024

1. Eda as President and Edna will take on chairing a number of the Committee meetings to support Eda.
2. Jeff as Treasurer and Brian to be Assistant Treasurer and do the weekly banking especially when Jeff is absent. Brian is also issuing the table fee vouchers for those who pay for vouchers each week.
3. Leo to continue as Secretary
4. Edith will take on ensuring we have supplies of consumable paper items for weekly bridge each week, e.g. membership forms and table fee slips
5. Lorraine will continue as afternoon tea Coordinator.
6. Starlette will take on twice yearly sourcing of any name tags required by members.
7. Helen to continue as Masterpoint Secretary.
8. Andrea Herraman has agreed to take on the newsletter editor role. Andrea has been asked to join the Committee.

BRIDGE COMPETITIONS OUTSIDE THE CLUB

The Committee believes that the club should be more proactive in encouraging and supporting and assisting members who may wish to play in events at other clubs. It was agreed:

1. Where such competitions are official NSWBA or ABF events (e.g. NSW Country Teams Championship or GNOT) that the club should encourage members to play as representatives of the club. As such the club would agree to pay entry fees for member who play in a Byron Bridge Club Team as long as at least one member of the pair is a BBBC "home" member. No subsidy would be provided for travel or accommodation if the tournament is held at a location away from the club, unless the Committee specifically approves such funding as a one-off. The club will seek members wishing to form Byron Club teams for the following competitions with the club subsidising the entry fee.
 - a) NSW Country Teams Championship Zone final be held at Coffs Harbour on 29/30 June, or
 - b) NSW Country Teams Championship Regional Finals to be held at Ballina 12 May
 - c) GNOT Regional Final is to be held at Ballina on Sunday 28th July
 - d) State Seniors Championship to be held at Gosford 28*-31 May for players born 1960 or earlier.

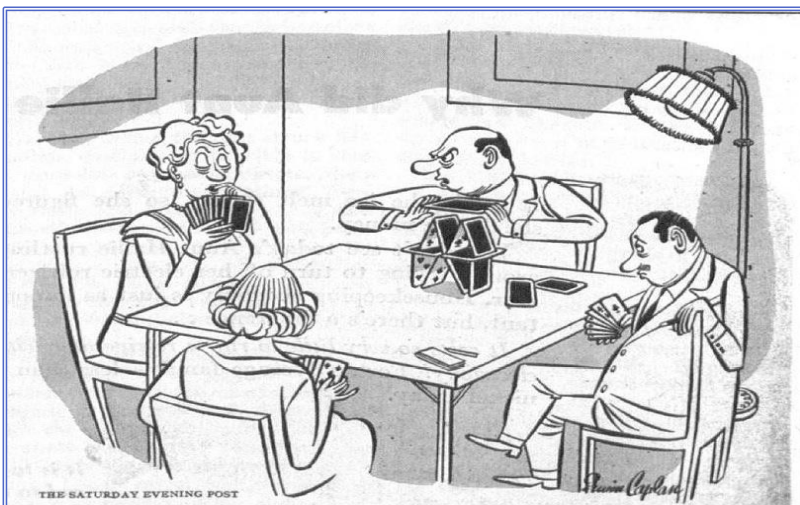
2. Where such competitions are not official tournaments but are held at local clubs within our close region (i.e. Ballina, Lismore, Lennox, Brunswick Valley) then members can be encouraged to form a team to represent the club and the club would pay all or part of the entry fee as we did earlier this year we agreed to pay part of the fee for two teams to the Australia Day teams event at Ballina Club. No subsidy would be provided for travel or accommodation.
3. Where such competitions are not official tournaments and are not held at local clubs with our close region (i.e. Ballina, Lismore,

Lennox, Brunswick Valley) then members would be informed of the event by email but no subsidy would be paid. In these cases the member would be playing as individuals or a pair but not representing the club as such. There are a number of competitions coming up in the north coast over the next few months.. Members interested in playing please contact the local clubs or look for info at the NSWBA website.

1. Yamba Annual Swiss Pairs Congress to be held on 25/26 May.
2. Coffs Harbour Bridge Club - Coffs Swiss Teams to be held 4/5th May.
3. Nambucca Valley Bridge - Nambucca Swiss Pairs to be held 1st/2nd June.

SUPPORT FOR BEGINNER GROUP

It was agreed that Kath's beginner group shows a lot of interest and Kath indicates a number should be almost ready to join us on Friday afternoons. Kath has restarted the group with supervised play 10am -12 noon for the next four weeks. It was agreed that for 17TH May we would hold a "welcome" day at Friday bridge when we would invite the group to join us for normal duplicate play. Members would be asked to split from their normal partners for the day and partner with a beginner. If we make it a friendly day and ask members to play simple bidding systems for the day it would be good.



Saturday Evening Post 1948

It is important that we encourage these new players to begin to play with us on Fridays. Last time we had a good beginner group but did not get much in the way of regular new club players out of the lessons. We should aim to get a significant portion of the group and use their interest in bridge to turn them into regular Friday players. They would be able to play as visitors on that Friday 17th May, and then be asked to join the club if they wished to get an ABF number and become regulars.

Ray Towers ▶ **CARPETS**

RUGS & VINYLs

Mullumbimby (02) 6684 2467

Lismore (02) 6621 8399

WHAT'S THE POINT OF POINTS?

Courtesy of PAUL SMITH

Consider an auction that starts like this.

W 1C
N 1H
E 1S
S ?

A fairly typical competitive auction. Let's look at two possible hands that you might hold.

Hand 1

South

J43



K87



QJ8



KJ73



Easy right? Three card support for partner's five card Major, 11 high card points. A good hand?

Hand 2

South

43



J1084



97



A8764



Five points this time (plus two points for the two doubletons, I hear you cry! OK)

Comparison

With Hand 1 you have a Major suit fit.

But ... is valuing the ♠J as one point sensible? How valuable are the ♣KJ? The hand on your left opened Clubs. Three trumps are great, that is three that the opponents do not have. But how many tricks will those three trumps generate? What are you going to ruff? Imagine that trumps break 4-1, how well will this hand play?

A brutal evaluation would be that you actually have no points in Spades and no points in Clubs. I think Hand 1 is the equivalent of about seven points.

I am going to bid 2♥ but with a feeling that it is an overbid. If the opponents carry on then these "11" points will not get another bid from me.

With Hand 2 you have four trumps. Now an unequal break is 3-1 and you still have a Heart after trumps are drawn. Your trumps are a source of tricks because you have two doubletons. Your trumps will probably not disappear just because declarer draws trumps. They are likely to generate one or two tricks of their own via ruffs.

With these five high card points I am happy to bid 2♥ and if the opponents carry on then I will be comfortable bidding 3♥.

At the end of the day Hand 1 will contribute 11 to the total points that the South seat held that day. Hand 2 would only add 5 points. Are you looking at the average points your seat held or are you able to gauge what is a good hand and what is not?

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE HEADLINE QUESTION?

What is the point of points?

When you are opening the bidding you have very little to go on. If you are the dealer then there is no extra information beyond the thirteen cards you are looking at. The only way to evaluate a hand at this stage is your points. Definitely high card points but also distribution points (length or shortage - take your pick). But is still not that simple. How well do your cards work together? A Quack on it's own is marginal but pair a Queen with a King and you have a winner. Do you have the King, Queen and Jack in a suit? Lucky you. But what if you have the ten as well? Probably a trick, definitely worth more than zero points.

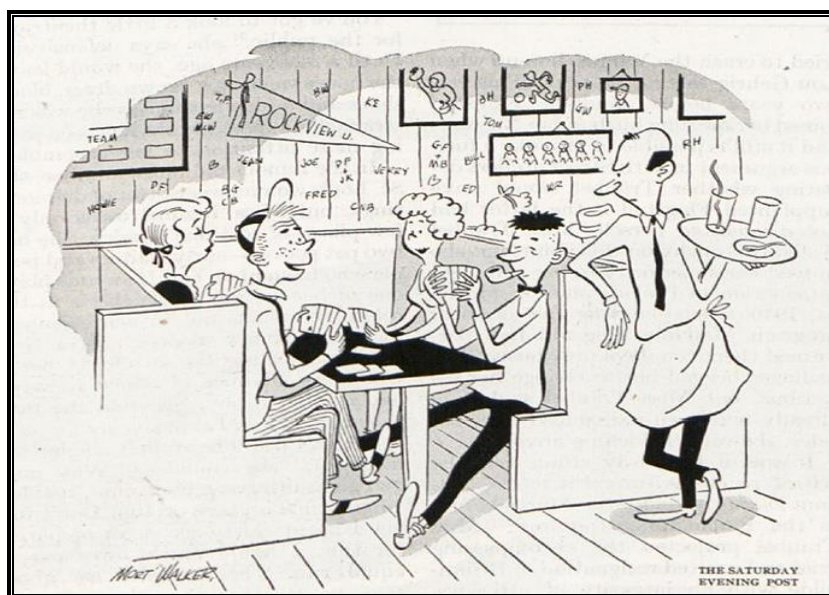
A recent example

I held the East cards and North opened 1♣. Ten high card points but this is a great hand. I am actually quite happy that the hand on my right has opened because now I can double to show support for all the unbid suits in one stroke.

The auction proceeded with 1♥ from South, Pass, 1NT. Back to me. My ♥A is still worth a trick (if I had the ♥KJ that would still be four points but close to worthless). My initial double emphasises the Majors and partner may well have been reluctant to bid Diamonds at the two

level. Normally to double and then bid again would show 19 points or better but your ear needs to be tuned to the music of the auction. A bid of 2♦ shows the value of this hand, but more importantly the shape of the hand. With North opening and South responding my partner is never going to get too excited. 2♦ is likely to be a safe contract, pushes North/South a little higher and indicates a good lead should South win the contract.

North/South finish in 4♠, down two



Saturday Evening Post 1948

Biography – *Andrea Herraman*



I'm a fifth generation Australian with forebears arriving here in the 1840s – one set to Sydney and the other to Adelaide. The Sydney-bound family had fled the potato famine of Ireland while the Adelaidians were an army family from Northern Ireland. Presumably an oft-guard of convicts after 20 years in the army, my ggg father completed five years of service as an Officer's valet in Port Arthur and Hobart-town. Once discharged they made their way to meet with family who had arrived earlier.

My Sydney-born mother married my South Australian father after a convoluted romance involving wartime friends and liaisons. Together with two younger brothers we lived in Adelaide. It was a loving, wacky upbringing with our working-class family living and breathing my parents' politics of feminism and unionism. Ours was a colourful suburb of mainly Greek, Italian and Irish migrants where we mixed freely. One of my uncles was gay and we and his friends all joined in family activities. It wasn't until adulthood that I really

learned the real politics of prejudice in Australia.

I thought all mums worked outside of the home, dads did their share in the kitchen, parents got arrested at anti-war protests, food came in many tasty kinds and friends came from a variety of backgrounds. I now realise that while my parents didn't go past Year 9, it was a privileged existence and not common for children of my era to have exposure to that level of diversity.

At an early age, I had a chance encounter with a glossy Reader's Digest Book of Travel, full of pictures of faraway places. My eyes honed onto a picture of Ha Long Bay, Vietnam and travel became a constant obsession and something that has really marked my life.

Mum made me wait until turning 17 but I headed off to NZ for a year at sixteen years and fifty weeks. To get the money, I spent twelve months saving money from my first full-time job in the computer room at the Arnott's Biscuit Factory.

On returning to Australia, I worked again for a year in a warehouse that supplied bakeries, wineries, breweries, etc marking up invoices and converting imperial to metric which was a wonderful education in the new metric system and I was soon saving for the next trip which included 2 years working in bars between Perth and Darwin setting me up for anything for the streets could throw my way.

Newly married, my next stop was Athens and adventures that

would last 4 years. We worked our butts off each summer in the UK, he as a civil engineer and me in cafes and supermarkets, while operating food stalls at festivals on weekends. The festivals eventually blossomed into a full-time job for a couple of summers; a great way around the UK, seeing amazing bands while getting paid. Autumn would see us in France, picking grapes and working our way south to apples and pears. The other seven months of the year we travelled in Africa or Asia.

The pisé and mud brick houses of north and east Africa really piqued my interest in medium-density, solar passive housing. When eventually we made our back to Australia, we set up outside Stanthorpe on twenty acres and engaged in the first of many building projects throughout my life. It was the early 80s and timing suggested we should start a family; but not wanting to remain in the unskilled labour force I set off alone for Toowoomba to study Journalism and Asian Studies. I got a weekend reporting job at The Chronicle so enjoyed the next three years studying, working, involved in student politics, partying and still able to last on little sleep.

Degree in hand, and a new partner in tow, I headed back to my hometown and continued studying Education in case I could get work overseas. Working two twelve-hour shifts every weekend at a backpacker's hostel I had, by the second year of study bought, with the help of my parents, two hostels and spent ten years operating those while

developing Australia's first backpacker-specific travel agencies outside the YHA chain. I was also involved in publishing early backpacker magazines and working with the SA and Australian Tourism Commission to develop the backpacker market.

However, a decade in and I was ready to hit the road again. With a young baby I thought it good timing before he would have to attend school. His Dad was understandably more interested in his career in ABC radio and I left alone but with baby in tow and heading for the Tanami Desert. Part of that exploration led me to the Northern Rivers where I had many friends and had visited over several years. (in the old Stanthorpe days, we would regularly bring organic fruit down the range to weekend markets, Santos, Fundies etc). Arriving with a suitcase and a box of toys in 1997, I just never went home.

Once here, I cobbled together a career teaching marketing, tourism and business management at local Tases and Community Colleges, co-ordinating local events and festivals and grant writing in Brunswick Heads and Byron Bay. Using my knowledge of building I got an owner builder's license and managed to develop my block of land in Mullum to include a house, a granny flat and a studio divided by gardens. My tenants keep me fluid financially and able to travel regularly. My son lives in Melbourne so needs plenty of look ins from Mum – well that's my excuse - as I have come to love Melbourne and take any chance to visit. My tenants never leave so it's a contented and easy way to make a living in my mini-medium density development.

I love keeping abreast of national and international current affairs, popular culture, music (current listening is Matt Corby, Gang of Youths + Teddy Swims), art, movies, gardening, walking, learning new things as well as, of course, travelling. During Covid I kept busy by joining Australia Volunteers International and developed a marketing plan for a Samoan Women's Business Collective learning about the international commodities markets in cocoa, coffee and coconut oil and life in the Pacific.

In 2011 I eventually did get to Ha Long Bay. My next stop was Nanning in Southern China to visit the world's largest medicinal botanic park. I went with an old friend who had never left Australia but was fearless and inquisitive. We began on an island in Ba Tu Long National Park in Ha Long Bay settling there for a week or so. Rather than tread back to Cát Bà and then the mainland, we figured that we were better off sticking to the sea. With the help of local seafarers, we managed to hitchhike across the South China Sea to the border at Mong Cai. It always makes me laugh when I think of us, a couple of fifty-plus gals with only a smile for language skills, being passed from boat to boat. We were a hit wherever we went, like a couple of broken-down old movie stars traipsing the D grade stages. We sure sang for our supper during that journey – finally my trip to Ha Long Bay.

The two countries I most enjoyed visiting were Sudan and Greece. I once spent two months travelling from the southern reaches of the Aswan Dam in Egypt during a ceasefire, following the Nile through the Sahara. I think seeing first-hand that people's needs are largely universal makes me have few fears about others.

Time is tapping me on the shoulder, and with it the realisation that unscheduled adventures may become less frequent so better get something big in. I've just completed some art classes and plan to study further, spending the next six months completing a Cert 4 in Visual Arts. A ticket to Athens fell into my lap departing six weeks after my studies are complete. So come February 2025, clutching a one-way ticket, I'll head off for what I hope is a one - two year undertaking. It will start with quick jump over to Malta for the first month or so as it has the warmest winter in Europe, and I've wanted to visit ever since seeing Shawn Micallef's tear-jerking episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?* The extent of my plan is to walk around the island of Gozo. Then it will be back to Thessaloniki and ensconce myself north in Kavala for a few months. It boasts a large Bridge Club, multiple gyms and access to the Pindus Mountains. To avoid finding myself bored at night I'll enrol in the first unit of a Human Geography Degree at the Open University. At the crossroads of the Balkan peninsula, I hope to roam around Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria and Albania while keeping a base in Kavala. These travels will surely support my studies, fitness and tastebuds. I write this in Melbourne awaiting the Greek Consul's promised twelve month visa. I'll finish off by exploring the Great Steppe of Central Asia and some tributaries of the Silk Road. My big dream this time is to attend the World Nomad Games and Eurovision.

Let's see what I can find whilst trying to get to them.

HERRAMAN.—At his residence, Cambelltown, of droopy, James Herraman, after an illness of 18 months, aged 58—an old colonist. His end was peace.

NINBELLA

Hosting a fine range of First Nations Australian art displayed alongside paintings by Northern Rivers artists, **Ninbella Gallery** is located on the main street of Bangalow in Northern New South Wales.

We represent highly sought-after, award-winning artists and work directly with wholly Aboriginal owned art centres in remote communities such as Ampilatwatja, Yuendumu, Yirrkala, and the Tiwi Islands.



Collectable Western and Central Desert artists include Willy Tjungarrayi, Minnie Pwerle, Makinti Napanangka, Ronnie Tjamitjinpa and Emily.

Among our other contemporary indigenous artists are Kurun Warun, Gloria Gardiner, Ethan-James Kotiau, Gabriella Possum and Melissa Ladkin. Local contemporary artists such as Vlad Kolas, Hilary Herrmann, Tanith Kershaw, Beryl Miles, Saren Dobkins and Leah Anketell.

Leah Anketell



We are a member of the Australian and New Zealand Fair Trade Association and stock a select range of Better World Arts ethical giftware.

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